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Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIX, Issue No. 180

WEDNESDAY JULY 29, 2009

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you support a proposal to hire medical doctors from countries other than the U.S. and Canada?

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PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE 6

As of July 28, 2009

Phase 1: Viruses circulating among animals have yet to cause infections in humans.

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Phase 3: An animal or human-animal influenza virus has caused sporadic cases or small clusters of disease in people, but has not resulted in human-to-human transmission sufficient to sustain community-level outbreaks.

Phase 4: Verified human-to-human transmission of an animal or human-animal influenza virus able to cause "community-level outbreaks."

Phase 5: A strong signal that a pandemic is imminent and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of planned mitigation measures is short.

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmiphoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

No Mas

Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, faced with the prospect of civil unrest unless she steps down at the end of her term, has vowed not to try to extend her time in office.

Asia...Page 16

Shipyard bill opens opportunity for US Navy repairs in the CNMI. **PAGE 2**
Ninth Circuit Court upholds ruling in favor of NMC. **PAGE 3**

Ruhlman: Tinian part of regional military build-up

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Brigadier General Philip M. Ruhlman, Commander of the 36th Wing at Andersen Air Force Base in Guam, said the United States has interests on Tinian as part of its ongoing military build-up in the region.

Ruhlman said there's a big possibility that Tinian will be used by the U.S. military, but added that extensive surveys of the area would still be needed before it becomes a reality.

He said this issue had already been asked several times during his short visit to Saipan.

Ruhlman, who is also Instal-



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
Brig. Gen. Philip M. Ruhlman, Commander of the Andersen Air Force Base in Guam, explains the importance of the Marianas from a national security standpoint during a presentation at the regular meeting of the Rotary Club of Saipan yesterday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

lation Commander at Andersen AFB and Deputy Commander of the Joint Region Marianas, was the guest speaker at the regular meeting of the Rotary Club of Saipan yesterday at Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Ruhlman admitted that Tinian is part of a back-up plan. However, they still have to study the potential and the opportunities that could be maximized not only from the use of Tinian but Rota and Saipan as well.

Ruhlman clarified the U.S. Air Force doesn't have a hand in the faith of Tinian vis-a-vis in the ongoing military build-up and said the decision rests solely

See RUHLMAN on Page 4

Runoff election bill signed into law

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial on Friday signed into law a bill that establishes runoff election in the event that a gubernatorial candidate garners less than 50 percent of the vote.

House Bill 16-220 seeks amendment of the NMI election law to provide for runoff election procedures and to al-

See RUNOFF on Page 4

Stray animals 'scare' away tourist

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A tourist is appealing to the Marianas Visitors Authority to immediately address what she describes as outrageous and inhumane conditions stray animals are subjected to on Saipan.

Vanja Ivanova-Hathcock and her family took a seven-day vacation on Saipan earlier this month and it may very well be

their last visit on the island.

From day one, Ivanova-Hathcock and her family were sur-

See STRAY on Page 4

Senate passes nursing bill with amendments

Locals given preference, hiring cap included

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate passed with amendments a House bill that seeks to waive the two-year work experience for nonresident nursing graduates of the Northern Marianas College who are seeking employment

at private medical clinics.

Six senators who were present during Monday's session approved House Bill 16-208 with insertion or amendments.

The senators agreed to amendments such as giving local nurses preference in hiring and putting a hiring cap of 100

See SENATE on Page 4



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HELPING THE COMMUNITY

Since 2000, IT&E and former companies (GTE, Verizon, and PTI) have been providing summer jobs to high school and college students. To be eligible, students must be at least 16 years old and be eligible to legally work in the CNMI, submit a sealed copy of current transcripts having at least a 3.3 GPA or 88 percent, and submit a recommendation preferably from an instructor, principal, vice-principal, counselor, advisor, or dean. Advertisements for IT&E summer jobs appear in newspapers in May of each year. IT&E hires up to 20 students each summer, and it also participates in the Student Work Program. The Summer 2009 students are shown above.



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Local

Shipyard bill opens opportunity for US Navy repairs in the CNMI

WASHINGTON, D.C.—NMI Congressman Gregorio “Kilili” Camacho Sablan yesterday introduced legislation that adds the Northern Mariana Islands to the list of locations where United States naval vessels can be repaired.

“This change in the law has the potential to create a new industry here in the Northern Mariana Islands and bring much-needed jobs for our people,” said Sablan. “This is one of the ways that we may be able to benefit from the military build-up in Guam.”

Current federal law generally limits the repair of U.S. military vessels to the 50 states and Guam. Sablan’s legislation adds the Northern Mariana Islands to the places where these repairs are allowed.

“This is simply a matter of opening up an existing market to a greater number of competitors,” Sablan said. “But this simple change could mean a great deal if the U.S. Navy chooses to

use the Marianas as a venue for these repairs.”

Joeten-Kiyu, Garapan market slated for funding

Meanwhile, the U.S. House of Representatives passed another funding bill with earmarked appropriations requested by Sablan.

The vote was 256-168 for the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2010, containing \$200,000 for a new roof for the Joeten-Kiyu Library and another \$200,000 towards the Garapan Public Market.

“I am very pleased that we continue to have success getting my Member requests funded,” said Congressman Sablan. “The Joeten-Kiyu Library is a much-used and very important public asset on Saipan. And the Garapan Public Market will play an important role in the continuing development of our tourism industry, as well as for local farmers and fishers.”

The Joeten-Kiyu Library has been troubled for several years by leaks in its roof that threaten the library’s holdings of books and videos and its computers and audio-visual equipment. Sablan included the \$200,000 funding among his Member requests because of this imminent danger.

“One of my other member requests that has been funded in a House appropriations bill is \$100,000 for library books for the Public School System. New books—and protecting the books we already have—are critical to the continuing education of our children and all of us who live in the Northern Mariana Islands,” he said.

Sablan added that the Garapan Public Market will provide the community a centralized facility that will increase economic opportunity for farmers and fishers and be an additional attraction for tourists who visit the Northern Mariana Islands. Although the \$200,000 earmark is not the full cost of the market, it is a step toward full funding.

The 2010 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development bill now goes to the Senate for approval. (PR)

DOC commissioner urges end of consent decree on CNMI prison facilities

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Department of Corrections Commissioner Dolores San Nicolas said the CNMI has complied with the requirements of a consent decree signed by the CNMI and the U.S. Department of Justice and now wants the status to end.

“Consent decree at this time is healthy. With a period of five months while I was in there (DOC), I was able to comply with the mandatory requests from the Department of Justice,” San Nicolas told senators during her confirmation hearing as commissioner on Monday.

Answering Sen. Felix Mendiola’s request to elaborate on the consent decree, San Nicolas said the decree satisfies with what goals were placed on DOC to comply in operating a corrections facility.

The \$20.9-million adult prison facility in Susupe was opened in February 2008. The CNMI was forced to construct the building under a consent decree signed with the U.S. Department of Justice after DOJ saw the deplorable conditions at the old prison facility.

The commissioner said DOJ

See DOC on Page 4



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Coastal Resources Management

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/s/ JOHN B. JOYNER, Ph.D.
Director



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/s/ JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ
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/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910 (a) and (b), the Commonwealth Election Commission, hereby give notice that the Commonwealth Election Commission will meet at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, July 29, 2009, at the office of the Commonwealth Election Commission, Capitol Hill, Saipan. Additional information concerning this meeting is available at the office of the Election Commission, 1313 Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA

- I. Preliminary Matters
 - a. Roll call
 - b. Adoption of agenda
 - c. Adoption of June 17, 2009 minutes
- II. Executive Director’s Report
- III. New Business
 - a. Commission Resolution 09-001 – 2009 General Election Candidates (Partial Listing)
 - b. Commission Resolution 09-002 – Open Government Act
 - c. H.B. 16-220
 - d. Registration for John K. Santos
- IV. Miscellaneous
- V. Adjournment

/s/ FRANCES M. SABLAN
Chairwoman

(The Commission, pursuant to 1 CMC §9912, may vote to meet in executive session to consult legal counsel and discuss personnel matters.)

Ninth Circuit Court upholds ruling in favor of NMC

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has affirmed the U.S. District Court in the Northern Marianas Islands' ruling in favor of the Northern Marianas College in a case filed by John "Jack" Angello.

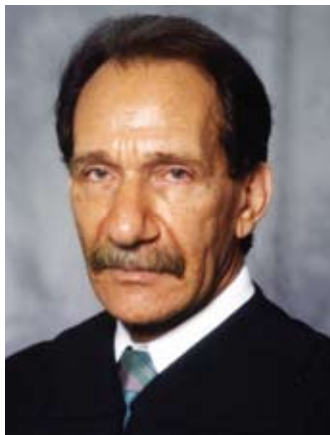
Angello, a former NMC employee, filed a lawsuit against NMC claiming that the institution had discriminated and retaliated against him.

In a decision on July 6, the Ninth Circuit Court indicated that the District Court properly concluded that Angello offered insufficient evidence to show that sex was a motivating factor for termination of his employment as required to show a discrimination claim.

The same decision stated that the appellant also did not offer sufficient evidence of a causal link between the complaints and grievances he lodged and the adverse action taken against him as required for a retaliation claim.

It was also found that Angello's contentions, including those regarding the apparent support of the lieutenant governor to the Pacific Rim program and the role of NMC's academic council in approving pilot programs, were unconvincing.

"Contrary to Angello's contentions, the record shows that the district court did consider his harassment and hostile work environment claims and did note that Moir was not in a position to evaluate him. Also contrary to his contention, there was trial testimony that NMC president



Wiseman

told a Pacific Rim Academy representative that NMC lacked funding for the Pacific Rim Academy program," the Ninth Circuit decision stated.

The same decision indicated that it did not reach Angello's contention that the District Court misconstrued and mishandled certain evidence because that evidence was not material to the grounds upon which the District Court entered judgment.

It can be recalled that Judge David Wiseman, at the conclu-

sion of the trial in the District Court, ruled in favor of NMC stating that a review of all the testimony and documents Angello could not make out a prima facie case when he was given the opportunity to prove his allegations.

To establish a prima facie claim for retaliation, Wiseman explained, Angello must show, by a preponderance of the evidence, that he engaged in a protected activity, that the defendant took an adverse employment action against him, and that there is a causal link between Angello's protected activity and the adverse action.

Wiseman concluded that Angello offered no direct and circumstantial evidence to support either of his claims.

In a statement yesterday, NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez was elated on the federal court's decision.

"We are pleased with the court's decision," said Fernandez, adding that the case has been in the courts for several years.

"We hope that the Ninth Circuit

ruling will bring some finality to Mr. Angello's tenuous claims so more focus can be afforded to our

efforts in providing a high quality education for our students," the president added.

NMC emerged from its show cause status early this month after its four-year accreditation was reaffirmed, subject for mid-term review and visits by the WASC team.

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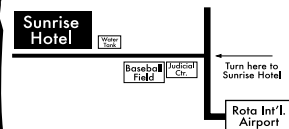
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Woman employee sues hotel for age discrimination

A 49-year-old housekeeping staff of a hotel filed a complaint with the U.S. District Court on Monday after her employer did not renew her allegedly because of her age.

Plaintiff Lydia M. Caylan asked the federal court for damages for age discrimination.

Represented by her counsel Colin M. Thompson, Caylan is seeking a redress for injuries she suffered as a result of her employer's alleged unlaw-

ful employment discrimination against her on the basis of her age and the defendant's alleged intentional infliction of emotional distress.

Caylan is a guest worker from the Philippines employed as a housekeeping cleaner at the hotel since 2005. Her contract was renewed twice in 2006 and 2007.

However, on April 24, 2008, Caylan said she was informed by her manager that she had an unsatisfactory performance and she

was asked to sign her evaluation report, but she declined. complaining that the evaluation report was inaccurate and unfair.

She said in her six-page complaint that her manager, Jang Sang, insisted she sign it and she eventually signed the evaluation believing she would be renewed.

But to her surprise, she said her manager told her immediately that "she would not be renewed because she was getting

old and that he did not want old people in his department."

Caylan said that on April 21, Sang formally gave her the letter in which the defendant stated that despite repeated warnings "your recent work has not been complete or accurate and therefore is useless."

She said that this statement was false and was made with the intent of making the real reason for her termination. Her contract ended in May 20, 2009.

She said that she was replaced by another female housekeeping cleaner who is in her mid-30s.

Caylan's counsel said that due to the actions of the defendant, the plaintiff suffered damages to be proven at trial.

The defendant is asking for compensatory damages in the form of front pay for future earnings and other benefits lost by her as a result of the defendant's alleged unlawful age discrimination.

She is also asking for compensatory damages in the form of back pay for past income and

other benefits she lost for such alleged age discrimination.

Other relief the plaintiff is asking include liquidated damages for defendant's willful violation of the law, attorney's fees and costs of the suit, compensatory damages for pain and suffering, mental distress, humiliation, embarrassment and anxiety suffered by the plaintiff as a result of the defendant's alleged intentional infliction of emotional distress, punitive damages, and such other damages the court deems necessary. **(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)**

STRAY

From Page 1

rounded by starving stray dogs that she—out of pity—fed during the duration of their stay in the CNMI capital.

She added that she felt robbed of \$2,000 during her seven-day trip to Saipan, which was promoted in brochures with beautiful beaches and places without mention of the depressing stray animals situation that exists on island.

In a letter to MVA managing director Perry Tenorio, Ivanova-Hathcock emphasized the importance of having an animal shelter and veterinarian on island, saying that these are basic necessities that every state and city must have.

"I am devastated that Saipan does not provide any basic humanitarian services for these poor creatures that are the result of irresponsible behavior on [the] part of Saipan's citizens," she told Tenorio.

Ivanova-Hathcock, who lives in Yokosuka Naval Base in Japan, said she regretted that her family choose Saipan over invitations to go to Palau.

"I cried my whole vacation. I cannot believe the indifference of the people of Saipan for these animals. I am not sure why people don't understand that tourism is their survival and it is in their best interest to take care of their pets," she said.

The visitor added that the problem of stray animals is key on Saipan's success as a tourist destination.

She also battled for the building of an animal shelter on Saipan. Ivanova-Hathcock said kennels will save the public from paying excessive fees for animal care.

Tenorio, in his response to Ivanova-Hathcock's complaint, referred the matter to concerned agencies asking for immediate resolution such as the Saipan Mayor's Office, the Department of Commerce, and other agencies.

The MVA chief said Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela is currently in the process of building an animal shelter to address the concern.

"We hope that we can address your concerns in a timely manner. Upon doing so, I hope that the CNMI will have the chance to welcome you back in the fu-

ture," he told the visitor.

In an interview yesterday, Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela expressed sadness on the tourist's concern.

"This [problem] has been in existence for many years...but was not addressed by my office because of lack of full support to the program. It's sad that we need to wait for this situation to happen before we finally act on it," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

It was way back in 2002 when Tudela initiated the Saipan Dog Control program. Though a public law was established, only \$75,000 was appropriated for the program—an amount not enough to even start construction of dog kennels.

On top of this, the site for the dog kennel also became a major sticking point. From the

original As Perdido location, the program was transferred to Lower Base where a kennel enough only to accommodate 10 dogs is temporarily being constructed.

Tudela said a permanent site for the dog program was identified in Kagman.

"Until now we're still in the permitting process..." the mayor said, adding that he hopes to see the realization of the dog control program before he leaves office in 2010.

The mayor said that uncontrolled stray dogs pose a very serious health threat to people, as dogs oftentimes viciously chase pedestrians and in many occasions attack and bite them.

He estimated the number of stray animals on island in the

thousands.

Ivanova-Hathcock said she will share her Saipan experience to her friends back home.

Tourists, she said, want to get the best for their money and currently they are not getting it on Saipan.

She added that besides the problem of stray animals, the rundown urban development and massage parlors on Saipan irritated her during her stroll of downtown Garapan.

She was also annoyed by hustlers who kept trying to a hawk her a boat ride.

"I wanted to call police several times on them. If I wanted a boat, jet ski, or any other services from them I can ask. [But] I don't need them to stalk me," she said and suggested to Tenorio to outright ban the practice.

SENATE

From Page 1

nurses from outside the CNMI.

The senators also amended to reflect that employment contract for nonresident nurses shall be renewed annually and that they be treated as local hires with no employer provided housing benefits.

Introduced by Reps. Justo S. Quitugua, Oscar M. Babauta and David M. Apatang, House Bill 16-208 allows nonresident nursing graduates of NMC to work at private medical clinics without any work experience restriction.

The legislation states that pri-

vate clinics in the CNMI require the services of nurses and would like to hire nursing graduates of NMI. But the current law or regulation requires such nurses to have at least two years nursing experience to be hired as a foreign national worker in the Commonwealth.

The House passed the bill last June.

During Monday's Senate session, amendments in the bill were made after Sen. Luis Crisostimo expressed concern on the legislation.

"Colleagues, really this legislation I see it to be a problematic down the line to our resident nurses because there's no quota to it.

There is no number that sets the limit. If we can put 50 or 100 I'm more than happy," said Crisostimo before the amendments.

Crisostimo said the framers of this legislation think that what they are doing is right, but that he disagrees.

"I think what they are trying is they are really eliminating our local people..." the senator said.

Senate President Pete Reyes asked why limit the waiver of two years to just the nurses and what about accountants, engineers, lawyers and other professionals.

"How do you expect the returning college students to possess the number of experience when they just graduated from

college and they are returning and hope to look for a job. We have to wait until they get experience. So we defeat the purpose of sending our children to school because when they come back they are faced with having not qualified for experience. If you don't hire them they never get the experience," Reyes said.

With respect to nurses, Reyes said there is a shortage of nurses.

"We need to be realistic. Our constituents, our people who need to go to hospital because of sickness, they want to be treated by qualified nurses. Actually they want to be treated by medical professionals," he said.

As a compromise to Crisosti-

mo's concern, Reyes said he totally agrees that when there is a resident qualified nurse that nurse should be put on the job right away.

"How do they gain experience when we don't hire them. So we need to remove this two-year as an initial priority," he said.

After Reyes made the statement, Crisostimo expressed his opinion again. He asked whether there is a hidden agenda in the legislation.

"Only the author probably knows because he probably got it from one of the interested schools. It is very clear," Crisostimo said.

"I look at this bill three of these people are not running for office anymore," said the senator, draw-

ing laughter from co-senators.

At this juncture, Reyes recommended to put wording in the legislation that nonresident nurses will be treated as local hires and not entitled to housing benefits.

Sen. Joseph Mendiola pointed out that the CNMI will lose control of immigration and labor issues this coming November.

"So even if we make a law that says you have experience one year once the U.S. immigration and labor come they have their own set of rules and regulations that we must follow. Be it through the government hiring of the Commonwealth Health Center or the private institution, they have to go through U.S. immigration," Mendiola said.

RUHLMAN

From Page 1

on the U.S. Marine Corps.

He gave a presentation about the capability of the military facilities in Guam and the progress of the ongoing build-up and the importance of the Marianas

to the U.S.

Earlier in the morning, he was also at the Legislature for a similar presentation to members of the House of Representatives.

Ruhlman supports the idea of making the CNMI a morale welfare recreation area, especially when the transfer of the 8,000 Marines and their 9,000

family members from Okinawa to Guam is completed.

Earlier reports said that the actual transfer would be next year, but Ruhlman said that the military build-up has been underway since five years ago.

Asked about the threat of North Korea, Ruhlman said that the U.S. Defense Department is

not relaxing when it comes to the Communist state.

"We are paying extremely close attention to the security of the region," he said. "Once the U.S. territory is struck by an adversary and I hope that will not happen, we are ready. [The] Guam Air Force Base serves as a deterrent," he said.

RUNOFF

From Page 1

low for the counting of absentee ballots on election day.

In collaboration with the Commonwealth Election Commission, Vice Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero drafted the legislation.

The House and the Senate earlier passed the legislation.

Fitial approved the bill and signed it into Public Law 16-43. Press Secretary Charles Reyes

Jr. told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that Fitial approved legislation to carry out the will of the people to hold a runoff election.

"This is pursuant to a legislative initiative approved by the majority of CNMI voters. The governor approved the legal procedures for this event. He supports the will of the people," Reyes said.

Approximately 73 percent of total votes cast during the 2007 general election supported House Legislative Initiative 15-16 that proposed to amend the

Constitution to require a runoff election for governor and lieutenant governor if no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast and counted for that office.

As a result, a runoff election for governor and lieutenant governor is required if no candidate received a majority of the votes cast and counted for that office.

Deleon Guerrero introduced the bill to establish runoff election procedures as mandated by the ratification of the House Legislative Initiative 15-16.

Commonwealth Election

Commission executive director Robert Guerrero earlier stated that the runoff election bill will mandate the Commission to count all general and absentee ballots at the same time on election day.

In order to do this, Guerrero said, the commission must send in advance the absentee materials to enable it to receive all the ballots-general and absentee-before election day.

Public Law 16-43 will take in effect this coming November polls.

DOC

From Page 2

is now satisfied that the CNMI is now operating according to the standards in the United States.

"So by Sept. 15 we are moving in. (U.S. District Court for the NMI) Judge Alex Munson is happy to announce that we are going to be lifted on that responsibility," she said.

San Nicolas said she is urging that consent decree must stop because DOC cannot move on as long as it is under DOJ's control.

"Consent decree is telling you that you do not know how to operate a prison," she said.

On the manpower shortage issue, San Nicolas said it is mandatory to assign 18 personnel per shift at DOC.

She said all designated areas must be posted and that corrections officers cannot leave

their posts.

"So sufficiently we are running out of lack of manpower at this time. We're only sufficiently covering 13 per shift. And that's a liability," the commissioner disclosed.

San Nicolas said she is against the previous DOC's administration's decision to incorporate detainees into the adult prison facility.

"To me it's not right," she said, explaining that detainees have different rights than inmates or convicted persons.

San Nicolas said with the insufficient budget to meet DOC's goals, she recommends sending all the prisoners off-island.

"And why is that? Because we don't have sufficient programs at this time to accommodate all these criminals," she added.

At present, DOC reportedly has 144 detainees and inmates.

Fund willing to restructure judiciary's loan for another 5 years

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund is willing to restructure the loan of the CNMI government for the judiciary building complex, but only through realistic projected revenues, according to Fund board chairman Juan "Pan" T. Guerrero.

Guerrero said from 15 years payment term, the trustees could consider strengthening the term to another five years provided justifications that payment can be made to the Fund.

It was in February 1995 when the Fund trustees approved a total loan of \$13.5 million to the CNMI for the construction of a judicial complex in Saipan. The loan bears an interest rate of 7.5 percent per annum payable for a period of 15 years.

But recently, Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan and Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja informed the Legislature that, as of July 15, 2009, the outstanding balance on the original loan is \$7.1 million.

It was disclosed that the judiciary's average monthly collections have significantly dropped in the last few years and will result in its loan going in default by next year.

Guerrero admitted to *Saipan Tribune* that the judiciary had asked the Fund for some alternatives which may be considered.

"We have to sit down with them and look at the projections, data on decline of resources before we can make the decision. But I think the board will consider the situation and may approve restructuring the loan for another five

years as long as we know the data," he said during a special board meeting.

Guerrero emphasized that the Fund is also presently concerned on the building status as repairs have not been properly executed.

According to the Fund's au-

dit report for 2008, as of September 1998 the NMIRF had paid or accrued all progress billings on this project. From this loan, the CNMI provided Fund adequate security for the loan in the form of a first mortgage on the real property on which the judicial complex

was constructed and assignment of all its revenues.

Pursuant to Public Law 7-25, a judicial building fund was created for the purpose of liquidating the cost of constructing the complex and that all revenues collected by the courts are directly deposited

into this fund.

NMIRF controls the bank account of the judicial building fund that is being used to retire the debt.

In September 2008 and 2007, CNMI judicial building loan receivable balance was \$7.7 million and \$8.5 million, respectively.



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NMC-AU PARTNERSHIP

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Marianas College President Dr. Carmen Fernandez, seated far left, and dean of academic programs and services, Cynthia Deleon Guerrero, standing far left, pose with representatives from Argosy University, including AU Hawai'i Campus president Warren Evans, seated far right, during a recent meeting. The visiting officials discussed with Fernandez and Deleon Guerrero the collaborative efforts of both institutions in AU's offering of a master's degree program in business administration and a doctorate in educational leadership, to people in the CNMI. This is a partnership between AU and NMC via the Community Development Institute, a program under the Division of Community Programs and Services.

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Hundreds attend grand 95th Iglesia anniversary

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hundreds of devotees of the Iglesia Ni Cristo on Saipan gathered for a special feast as they joined in the worldwide celebration of their church's 95th grand anniversary Monday night.

CNMI INC minister Eric

Reyes led a devotional prayer for the occasion, which was also highlighted by musical presentation by the INC choir group, a documentary presentation, and a live video presentation of what was unfolding at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao, Quezon City, Philippines where the main celebration was held.

Iglesia Ni Cristo choral group performs during last Monday night's 95th grand anniversary celebration at the Christ of Church in San Vicente, Saipan.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.



Here on Saipan members were glad to see some Filipino celebrities like Lea Salonga gracing the occasion at the main venue.

Another big gathering was also held at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum in Manila, while

devotees from Pampanga and Tarlac joined together at a large venue in Pampanga and members from Batangas, Quezon, and Laguna held their activities at Calamba town in Laguna.

Similar celebrations were also held in the U.S. mainland,

in Hawaii, and three sites in Guam and on Palau.

There are an estimated 10 million INC members, including overseas devotees with over a thousand in the CNMI.

Reyes also led a similar prayer service for INC members on Tinian Monday morning.

He said he was overwhelmed by the turnout on Saipan.

"We are overflowing with happiness and we thank all the members who joined us and their friends and visitors," he said.

He said Monday was a working day on Saipan but they still gave way for the occasion.

Reyes said they have prepared for the celebration a month in advance starting in June 24.

His message to the INC members on Saipan is to remain active and be prayerful.

It was on July 27, 1914 that INC was officially registered as a pioneering religious organization. Its founder Felix Y. Manalo, the man whom the members recognize as the messenger of God, set out to perform his divine mission.

The first overseas mission was on July 27, 1968 in Hawaii. Almost a year later on May 17, 1979, the church of Christ on Saipan was officially established and registered.

One of the longest devotees on Saipan, Sammy Alfonso, said they had only 15 members when he arrived here in 1981. The church was then located in Tanapag. They later transferred to Chalan Piao before it moved to its present location in San Vicente.

Asked what's the basic role of an INC member, Alfonso said one must need to follow Christ's teachings for his/her salvation.

This, he said, is also an effective way of keeping up with the tough times and the economic hardships that everyone is facing.

Another longtime Saipan resident and INC member, Noli Villacrusis, who came to the island in 1991, reminded their members of their spiritual duty.

Belated Happy Birthday

Nadia Benjamin

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CNMI gets \$57K to clean up underground petroleum leaks

Kilili says EPA funding will create jobs, help economy

HONOLULU, Hawaii—In an effort to protect people where they live, work, and play, the Environmental Protection Agency announced the distribution of \$57,000 to the CNMI under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to assess and clean up underground storage tank petroleum leaks.

The greatest potential hazard from a leaking underground storage tank is that the petroleum or other hazardous substances seep into the soil and contaminate groundwater, the source of drinking water for nearly one-third of all Americans.

"We're providing immediate growth opportunities for communities across the nation, as well as long-term protection from dangerous pollution in the land and water," said EPA

Administrator Lisa P. Jackson. "EPA is putting people to work by serving our core mission of protecting human health and the environment."

For his part, NMI Congressman Gregorio "Kilili" Camacho Sablan said the grant has the potential not only to create jobs and help the economy in the short run, but also will be good for our environment—and economy—over the long run.

He said the grant was part of Recovery Act money that the House passed in February 2009.

"The Recovery Act is accelerating the cleanup of many abandoned leaking underground storage tank sites that pose a threat to our limited groundwater resources," said Laura Yoshii, acting re-

gional administrator for the U.S. EPA's Pacific Southwest region. "These cleanups will protect our valuable groundwater supplies, while creating green jobs that will improve our economy."

This money is part of \$197 million appropriated under the Recovery Act to address shovel-ready sites nationwide contaminated by petroleum from leaking underground storage tanks. The funds will be used for overseeing assessment and cleanup of leaks from underground storage tanks or directly paying for assessment and cleanup of leaks from federally regulated tanks where the responsible party is unknown, unwilling or unable to finance, or the cleanup is an emergency response.

The EPA regional under-

ground storage tank program is entering into a cooperative agreement with the CNMI Division of Environmental Quality. The cooperative agreement will include more detailed descriptions of island spending plans.

President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 on February 17, 2009, and has directed that the Recovery Act be implemented with unprecedented transparency and accountability. To that end, the American people can visit [Recovery.gov](http://www.epa.gov/recovery) to see how every dollar is being invested. Learn more about EPA's implementation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009: <http://www.epa.gov/recovery/> and for information on the implementation in the CNMI, visit: <http://www.deq.gov.mp>. (PR)



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy birthday to Kimberly M. Camacho, a.k.a. "Kimster," who is celebrating her special day today. May you enjoy your day with laughter and fun with all the joyous moments you will have. Wishing you the best for all your wonderful endeavors in life! God bless and may you have many more beautiful birthdays to come. Greetings coming from your friends and family!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ON THE RISE

Maria Issabella Camacho has once again put the CNMI in the spotlight, as she has been selected to appear in the 2010 JC Penney Spring/Summer Catalog. She has been referred by her modeling agency in Dallas and was selected by L.A. Models, a professional modeling agency for JCP Media. Her photos were submitted and approved by this agency. Her photo sessions are to begin in September, which will be held in Dallas, Texas and Miami, Florida. Camacho started her modeling career before the age of 2. She has participated in numerous events. Camacho is the daughter of Juanita Piola Camacho from Saipan and now resides in Dallas.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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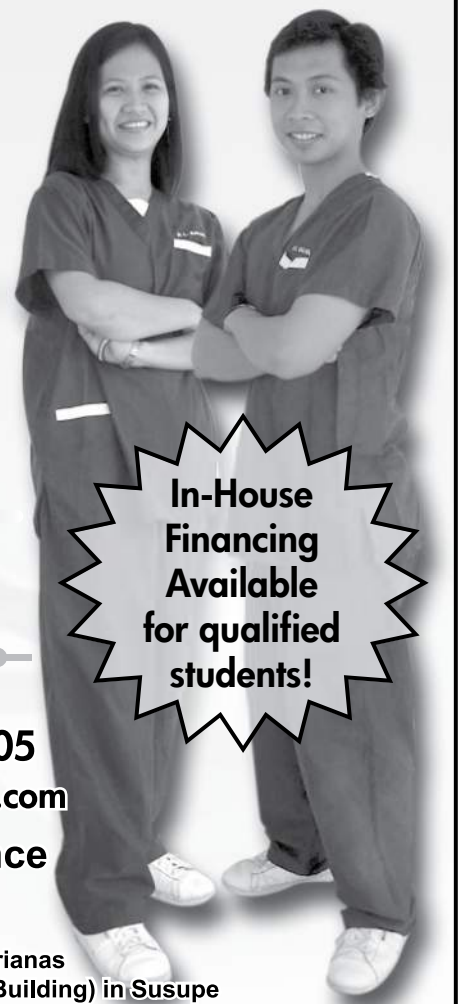
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Priniponen Atkilon Tanu Publiku

Notisia ginen i Depattamienton Tanu Publiku: Guaha priniponen atkilon tanu publiku espesifikamiente Tanu Numeru 076 D 15, poku mas o’ menus 3,000 metru kuatdrao minidoñña gi katan estatuan Matsue giya Garapan. I mapa yan todo infotmasion pot este na tanu gaige gi depattamienton tanu giya Dandan, segundu bibi-enda gi Joeten Dandan Building.

I para u inatkila este na lugat i Marianas Fitness, Ltd., un’ kompania guine. I membron kuetpon este na kompania i sigiente siha: Russel D. Quinn, Marian Aldan-Pierce, Rexfod C. Kosack, Yoshio S. Gabaldon, Kanae S. Quinn, Richard A. Pierce, Clarie S. Kosack, Angela Gabaldon, Christopher J. Nelson, and Brett D. Nelson.

I offisiat siha i sigiente: Russell D. Quinn, presidente; Marian Aldan-Pierce, segundu presidente; Rexford C. Kosack, secretariu; yan Yoshio S. Gabaldon, tresurariu. I kontratan este na atkilon manegosiu as Señor Kosack yan Señora Aldan-Pierce.

I umatkikila este na tanu publiku libre umusa i lugat pot bisnis eksisiu taimanu i gaige pago na fasilidat gi Marianas Fitness, Ltd. I tetminon atkilon bente siñku años (25 years) yan appottunidat ma-ekstenden este na atkilon talu kinse años (15 years).

I atkilon tanu kada sakan guaha figura mapega halom guine na kontrata segun i balin i lugat ni monhayan esta marikonose gi hilu i mafananaan “appraisal” ripot (katkulon balin tanu) ginen un’ kualifikao na kompania.

I Depattamenton Tano taya otro plano ha reside gi uson este siha na propiadat publiko giya Garapan, Saipan.

Kopian este na proposito gaige gi todo offisinin tanu publiku entalu Luta, Tinian yan Saipan. Libre kada sudadanu rumikonose este na dokumentu. I kabesanten depattamintun tanu publiku siña in’ tigie’ yangin guaha sentimentun miyu pot i mapropopone. Este na anunsiu areglon Lai Publiku 15-2. I uttimu haanen muna’ halom opiñion i Agosto dia 7, 2009 gi todo Offisinin Tano Publiku giya Saipan, Tinian yan Luta.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil ye 106 (b) mellól Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwilil Falúweer Toulap ekke atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Schóókka eyoor máfiyeer rebwe isisilong aghiyghir, aweewe, aingiingil reel pomwol akkilonul ammwelil falúweer toulap me bwal Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, e ayoora, lamal aweewe kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatééló.

- i. Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap nge ekke bwaári Lot No 076 D 15, eyoor eluuw sangaras llapal (3, 000 square meters), elapeló me ngáre eghús, elo Liyo, Luuta. Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ngáre óubwe ghuley fischiy.
- ii. Schéschéél schóól akkilon nge Marianas Fitness, Ltd., CNMI corporation. Schóóy Assamwoolul mwiisch (board of directors) mellól corporation nge Russel D. Queen, Marian Aldan-Pierce, Rexford C. Kosack, Yoshio S. Gabaldon, Kanae S. Quinn, Richard A. Pierce, Clarie S. Kosack, Angela N. Gabaldon, Chistopher I. Nelson, me Brett D. Nelson..

Samwoolul (President) corporation nge Russell D. Quinn.. Arúschayúl assamwool (vice president) nge Marian Aldan-Pierce. Sekkeretorio nge Rexford C. Kosack. Treasurer nge Yoshio S. Gabaldon..

- iii. Schóól aweeel akkilon nge Mr. Rexford C. Kosack me Ms. Marian Aldan-Pierce..
- iv. Schóól akkilon ebwe yááli bwuley reel mwóghutufisch ngáre leliyal ammey (fitness gymnasium) fengál me wisal..

Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon nge reweigh me limoow ráágh (25 years), emmwel rebwe sóbweey ngáli bwal seigh me limoow ráágh (15 years).

Pomwol akkilon yeel llól alongal ráágh nge ebwe mwir sáangi llapal méél falúw (value of the property) me bwal meeta kka e akkayú mellol bwuley yeel.

- v. Tilighial akkilon yeel nge emmwel óubwe bwughi mereel bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llól Tuturam, Seipél; aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) mellól Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Luuta; me ngáre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.
- vi. Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo pomwol akkilon ye elo Arabwal, Seipél..
- vii. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughil ischil mángemáng, aingiingil mereel amweyút mmwal August (Elúwel) 7, 2009 mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta, Tchúlúyól.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

- i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot No. 076 D 15, containing an area of approximately 3,000 square meters, more or less, situated in Garapan, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.
- ii. The prospective lessee is Marianas Fitness, Ltd., a CNMI Corporation. The Board of Directors of the Corporation are Russell D. Quinn, Marian Aldan-Pierce, Rexford C. Kosack, Yoshio S. Gabaldon, Kanae S. Quinn, Richard A. Pierce, Clarie S. Kosack, Angela N. Gabaldon, Christopher J. Nelson, and Brett D. Nelson.

The President of the Corporation is Russell D. Quinn. The Vice President is Marian Aldan-Pierce. The Secretary is Rexford C. Kosack. The Treasurer is Yoshio S. Gabaldon.

- iii. The proposed lease was negotiated by Mr. Rexford C. Kosack and Ms. Marian Aldan-Pierce.
- iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of operating an all-purpose fitness gymnasium and other related support facilities.

The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years, with an option to extend the lease for an additional 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property, including existing structure(s).

- v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; the 2nd floor of the Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.
- vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Garapan, Saipan.
- vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before August 7, 2009 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

Tinian writers
workshop set
for August

Are you a high school student on Tinian wishing to improve your writing skills?

If so, the NMI Council for the Humanities invites you to attend the upcoming Tinian Young Writers Summer Workshop.

The workshop will be held at the Tinian High School Library on four consecutive Saturdays starting on Aug. 8. Each session will run between two and four hours.

The workshop will be facilitated by veteran creative writing instructor Stephen Smith who is the Language Arts Program Coordinator at the CNMI Public School System.

Smith will introduce participants to the fundamentals of fiction writing including basic outlining, developing characters, and storyboarding.

Each participant will select a Tinian-based theme and genre for their original piece of creative writing. Writers will then prepare a series of drafts during which they will receive critical feedback and guidance from Smith.

The final product will be a series of original works of creative fiction that the council will publish for distribution in the CNMI.

The deadline for registration is Aug. 7, 2009. Workshop seating is limited to 20 and reservations will be confirmed on a first come, first served basis.

Workshop registration forms may be obtained from council board member Janet H. King on Tinian or downloaded from the council’s website at www.nmi-humanites.org.

The workshop is a part of the council’s continuing efforts to foster literacy skills in the Commonwealth.

For more information about this workshop please contact council staff at 235-4785 or Janet King (JanetHanKing@gmail.com) at 433-0419. (PR)

Puengin Inetnon
set this Friday

Puengin Inetnon will be held again this Fridaym July 31, at the Kagman Community Center’s parking lot. The Library’s Bookmobile will also be there.

Puengin Inetnon is Kagman’s Friday Night Market that will take place every government payday. It will begin at 4:30pm and end at 10pm.

There will be vendors selling food, drinks, snacks, clothing, and crafts. Puengin Inetnon is a family oriented event. Alcohol will be prohibited from the event. All are welcome. Come attend Puengin Inetnon for some family fun, right here in Kagman.

Interested vendors can call the Kagman Post Office at 256-POST for applications. (PR)



July 29, 1999

Teno eyes more belt-tightening

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio pledged yesterday to settle its mounting utility bills, saying the government will have to tighten its belt further to meet growing financial obligations. He, however, did not say when his administration will make payment to the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation to reduce its \$6.8 million in unpaid billings that have accumulated over the past six months. “All of us have the responsibility to pay our obligation. We are looking into that,” Tenorio told reporters.

Teacher absenteeism in region exceeds US average

The rate of absenteeism among teachers in Micronesia is higher than the national average in the United States, according to a study by the Pacific Resources for Education and Learning or PREL. The study, which covered all eight island states and entities, showed that teachers in Micronesia are “away from their classrooms” on an average of 11 days. The number of absences range from five to 22 days, the study said. “We’re way above the national average which is seven,” said Denise Lea Uehara, PREL’s program specialist..

July 29, 2002

NMI tourism industry choking

Fewer Japanese to take summer trips to Saipan, others The Northern Marianas is bracing for another slow year in visitor arrivals, with its top tourism marketÑJapanese travelersÑreportedly planning to cut back on overseas trips this summer. This translates to another bad news for the Commonwealth, whose ailing economy is beset with declining government revenue from the garment manufacturing sector. According to a report released by the Japan Travel Bureau, the number of Japanese planning to take overseas trips during the period covering July 16 to August 31, 2002 dropped 6.6 percent from the tally a year ago. This marks the steepest plunge since JTB started tracking tourism trends in 1969.

DPS chief: Enough is enough

Despite efforts to cut back on overtime, Public Safety Commissioner Edward C. Camacho has called on DPS officers to come back and spend extra hours monitoring Saipan’s streets, in response to the spate of criminal activities—predominantly burglaries and robberies—in the community.“I am fed up already with all these kinds of activities, no matter how petty they are. Obviously, they are becoming more and more serious. There are all kinds of articles telling the folks in Japan that Saipan is not a good place to visit anymore because you get robbed in the beach, in your own hotel room, while walking down the street.

July 29, 2003

OPM tightens noose on drug users

1 in 10 govt workers found positive for drug use in FY2002 An estimated 9 percent of all random drug tests implemented among government employees in Fiscal Year 2002 yielded positive results for illegal drug use. This translates to almost one in 10 employees who were found positive for drug use, according to the Office of Personnel Management. Describing the trend as “alarming,” the OPM is clamping down on possible drug use among “safety-sensitive” positions in the government, with the issuance of a directive informing all agencies of the resumption of random drug testing among this type of employees.

Babauta touts investment incentives

Before a diversified group of 750 business leaders in Japan, Gov. Juan N. Babauta reportedly made a sales pitch on the variety of investment opportunities in the Northern Marianas, touting, among others, tax benefits and other incentives that the Commonwealth has to offer. Speaking in front of members of the Japan Management Consultants Association last July 25, the chief executive informed Japan’s leading entrepreneurs of possible investment projects they can pursue, including the construction of cultural centers, retirement homes, beverage bottling businesses, fishing and pozzolan mining, to name a few. “I had a very positive response from good portion of participants,” Babauta told reporters yesterday.



W.I.A. Saipan 2009 SYETP

Additional Placements



NAME	POSITION	PLACEMENT	WORK SCHEDULE
SANCHEZ, Kayla C.	Administrative Assistant	CUC Water/Wastewater	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
BORJA, Kimberly M.	Library Aide	PSS-Kagman High School	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
DIONISIO, Julieann	Office Clerk	DCCA-Aging Office	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
NORITA, Phylli R.	Trades Helper	DPS Division of Roads & Grounds	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
NORITA, Jack R.	Office Clerk	DPW Operation & Maintenance, Lower Base	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
NORITA, Joshua R.	Warehouseman	DPH-Lower Base	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
AGUON, Mercelia T.	Assistant Coordinator	Kobbler Youth Center	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
WILLIAM, Leighiyar M.	HR Assistant	OPM	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
WELSON, April P.	Administrative Assistant	DCCA-Office of the Secretary	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
BAUTISTA, Sophia A.	Billing Clerk	DPH-Financial Service	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
BAUTISTA, Marjorie A.	HR Assistant	OPM	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
FALCON, Christine E.	Office Clerk	NMHC	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
MAILUYAL, Josiah L.	Forestry Aide	DLNR-Kagman	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
MICHAEL, Darren J.	Maintenance Trainee	10th Municipal Council	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
WILLIAM, Rico M.	Maintenance Assistant	PSS-Hopwood Jr. High	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
ROBERT, Mary M.	Office Clerk	10th Municipal Council	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
CRESPO, Joshua V.	Kitchen Helper	DPH-Dietary Unit	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
DIESTRO, Alvin L.	Shop Parts Clerk	Torres Refrigeration	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
HOSSAIN, Omar M.	Kitchen Helper	DPH-Dietary Unit	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
HOSSAIN, Mohammed A.	Medical Records Clerk	DPH-Medical Records	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
VINCENT, Nora A.	Office Clerk	DPH-Medical Records	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
VINCENT, Beverly A.	Administrative Assistant	CUC-Power Division	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
BAHILLO, Albert M.	Trades Helper	DPW-Roads & Grounds	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
JETLEY, Patsylynn M.	Clerk	DLNR-Kagman	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
BASTO, Kevin B.	Recreation Trainee	DCCA-Sports & Recreation	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
MARALIT, Jirelle P.	Administrative Assistant	DPS-BMV Drivers License	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
JOHN, Joylien R.	Registration Clerk	DPH-Business Office	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
ALEJO, Ashley V.	Administrative Assistant	DPS-BMV Drivers License	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
TEREGEYO, Ana Marie F.	Personnel Clerk	PSS-HR Office	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
AMIREZ, Christilyn R.	Spa/Floral Arranger	Marianas Resort & Spa	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
FERRER, Reinhold A.	Office Clerk	NMC-Educational Talent Search Program	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
FERRER, Raissa A.	Customer Service Rep	CUC-Customer Service Dept.	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
DELA CRUZ, Carinalynn, R.	Preservation Aide	Division of Historic Preservation	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
MANCAO, Maryann H.	Accounts Payable Clerk	DPH-Financial Service	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
DELEON GUERRERO, Nikko J.	Billing Clerk	DPH-Financial Service	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
LIZAMA, Aunica C.	Administrative Assistant	DPS-BMV Drivers License	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
WAING, Mary S.	Office Clerk	NMHC	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
WAING, Marylyn S.	HR Assistant	OPM	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
GABI, Nemesianne N.	Administrative Assistant	DPS-BMV Drivers License	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
BARRO, Julius D.	Office Clerk	DPH-Maintenance Office	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
BARRO, Mary D.	Office Clerk	DPH-Family Care Clinic	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
MANALO, Jesseray D.	Maintenance Trainee	PSS-Kagman High School	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
LACSINA, Jim M.	HR Clerk	Hyatt Regency	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
GUEVARRA, Angelo Q.	Stockroom Clerk	Marianas Resort & Spa	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
GUEVARRA, Alfredo Q. Jr.	Bellman	Marianas Resort & Spa	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
KAPILEO, Cypriana T.	GIS Trainee	DLNR-Land Registration	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
KAPILEO, Nunu T.	Maintenance Assistant	PSS-GTC Elementary School	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
ACABEDO, Paul T.	Administrative Assistant	DYS-Office of the Director	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
DELA CRUZ, Ritchell A.	Office Clerk	DLNR-Kagman	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
DELA CRUZ, Richard A.	Forestry Aide	DLNR-Kagman	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
IDERBEI, Evander R.	Office Aide	CLI	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
MANGTHEG, Christopher	Warehouseman	Ace Hardware-Susupe	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
IGLECIAS, Vince DLC.	Administrative Assistant	CUC-Proc & Supply	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
KAAINOA, Frienda S.	Office Clerk	DPW-Marpi Scalehouse	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
INDALECIO, Sheryl Lou T.	Office Clerk	DPH-Vital Statistics	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
INDALECIO, Maria Lou T.	Office Clerk	NMHC	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
KAPILEO, Herman DLR.	Administrative Assistant	DPS-BMV Drivers License	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
SANTOS, Ramrod S.	Stocker	Joeten Dandan Market	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
BUNIAG, Razel F.	Administrative Asst.	DPS-BMV	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
LEON GUERRERO, Anthony L., JR	Receptionist	DYS-Juvenile Detention	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
RABAUIMAN, Yumi K.	Office Assistant	NMC-Admin. Services	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
BUENAVISTA, John M.	Project Sys.Info.Clerk	DPW-Oleia	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
MARANAN, Herbert S.	Office Clerk	NMC-Career Services	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
RIVERA, Deza A.	Office Clerk	DPW-Marpi Scalehouse	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
TUMADA, April C.	Office Clerk	CNMI State BOE	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
DACUMA, Angela V.	Office Clerk	NMHC	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
SARALU, Olyphia N.	Community Dev. Trainee	DYS-Office of the Director	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
MACAHITO, Franklin C.	Office Clerk	NMI-Mayors Office	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
KLEWEI, Courtney T.	Office Clerk	DPW-LowerBase Transfer Station	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
MACAHITO, Gary C. Jr.	Office Aide	CDA-Gualo Rai	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
EUGENIO, Carmina O.	Administrative Asst.	PSS-Special Ed.	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
SIKYANG, Josh C.	Forestry Aide	DLNR-Kagman	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
ZACHRIAS, Walter L.	Enviromental Aide	DEQ-Gualo Rai	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
MAGABO, Mark A.	Mechanic Assistant	CPA-Airport Operations	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
NORITA, Shauna C.	Administrative Asst.	DOF-Proc & Supply Lower Base	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
NORITA, Victorino C.	Supply Technician	DOF-Proc & Supply Lower Base	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
TENORIO, Kyanna M.	Office Clerk	CPA-Airport Ports Police	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
TEREGEYO, Adreienne L.	Inspector	DLNR-Quarantine Seaport	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
ESPEN, Esael R.	Office Clerk	CPA-ARFF	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
FLORES, Carla S.	Administrative Asst.	DOF-Seaport	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
KIKKU, Priscilla G.	Administrative Asst.	CUC-Power Division	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
KAPWICH, Jake S.	Maintenance Helper	DPH-Maintenance	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
ARRIOLA, Mary Lynn F.	Administrative Asst.	DPS-BMV	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
ABIGANIA, Randall G.	Administrative Asst.	DPS-BMV	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
MINGEFIY, Peter P.	Community Dev. Trainee	DYS-Office of the Director	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
AGLUBAT, John Paul L.	Office Assistant	NMC-Admin. Services	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009

NAME	POSITION	PLACEMENT	WORK SCHEDULE
ATAN, Atan B.	Merchandiser Assistant	D&Q	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
IROG, Allen D.	Supply Technician	DOF-Proc & Supply Lower Base	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
ALDAN, Jaynelyn C.	Customer Service Rep	NMC-Bookstore	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
SANCHEZ, Edgar James	Produce Man	Joeten Susupe Market	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
SANCHEZ, Michael Vincent	Firefighter Trainee	DPS-Fire Division	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
TAULE, Leoloni O.	Office Clerk	NMHC	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
LAZARO, Leonard H.	Assistant Coordinator	Kobbler Youth Center	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
IGSAIAR, Viola T.	Office Clerk	PSS-Curriculum & Instr.	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
DELA CRUZ, Derick D.	Medical Records Clerk	DPH-Medical Records	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
BRANA, Daryl P.	Firefighter Trainee	DPS-Fire Division	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
BROWN, Arianna M.	Stocker	Joeten Dandan Market	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
PETER, Freeman F.	Customer Service Rep	NMC-Bookstore	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
TALION, Denver E.	Recreation Trainee	DCCA-Sports & Rec.	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
TAITANO, Kaegel T.	Office Clerk	DPH-Immunization	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
LISUA, Ambrosio	Gardener	DCCA-Aging Program	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
ELAYDA, Honey A.	Administrative Assistant	DPS-BMV	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
ONGILL, Swayzer S.	Fire Fighter Trainee	DPS-Fire Division	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
GAPOR, Glenn A.	Supply Technician	DOF-Proc & Supply, Lower Base	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
DUENAS, Joseph B. Jr.	Bldg.Maint.Asst.	PSS-Kobbler Elementary	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
GATCHALIAN, Rickylando M.	Mechanic Assistant	CPA-Operations	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
REUSORA, Desiree A.	Computer Trainee	Judicial Branch	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
MASAYOS, Ikluk Tharnton T.	Administrative Assistant	DYS-Office of the Director	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
MENDIOLA, Christopher S.	Office Clerk	DYS-Juvenile Detention	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
MENDIOLA, Del Eloise S.	Office Clerk	PSS-Curriculum & Instr.	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
ALFOREZA, Severino P. III	Office Clerk	CPA-ARFF	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
MANGAHIS, Wilden V.	Clerk	DPH-Laboratory Unit	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
CAMACHO, Judy Ann D.	Registration Clerk	DPH-Business Office	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
NORITA, Joana C.	Office Clerk	PSS-Curriculum & Instr.	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
NORITA, Jonathon G.	Forestry Aide	DLNR-Kagman	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
PRADO, Angela R.	Office Clerk	DPW-LowerBase Scalehouse	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
TUDELA, Christina P	Registration Clerk	DPH-Business Office	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
SALAS, Cartrina B.	Community Dev. Trainee	DYS-Office of the Director	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
BORJA, Vanity S.	Community Dev. Trainee	DYS-Office of the Director	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
GREER, Monica L.	Office Clerk	CPA-Airport Admin.	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
CRISOSTOMO, Roberta B.	Administrative Assistant	DYS-Office of the Director	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
REVES, Jan P.	Office Clerk	CPA-Airport Ports Police	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
CORDERO, Florentina M.	Office Clerk	DPH-Admissions	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
MASAYOS, Nizelynn T.	Community Development Trainee	DYS-Office of the Director	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
AGUITO, Anne G.	HR Assistant	OPM	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
ALEGRE, Bryl A.	Office Clerk	CPA-ARFF	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
CAMACHO, Kealany S.	Administrative Assistant	DYS-Office of the Director	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
MONTON, Donna S.	Office Aide	CDA-Gualo Rai	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
VILLONES, Mark G.	Stocker	Joeten Dandan Market	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
RIOS, Zada M.	Customs Trainee	DOF-Seaport	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
PUA, Alvander DLG.	Gardener	DCCA-Aging Program	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
PUA, Ann Margaret DLG	Office Clerk	DCCA-Aging Program	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
PUA, Vincent DLG.	Gardener	DCCA-Aging Program	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
MIKEL, Nicky D.	Administrative Assistant	CUC-Procurement & Sup	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
VILLOINO, Kate B.	Accounts Clerk	D&Q	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
CRUZ, John M.	Maintenance Asst.	CPA-Seaport	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
BILLEDO, Aurelio L. Jr.	Merchandiser Asst.	D&Q	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
BILLEDO, Junalyn L.	Office Clerk	NMHC	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
ANGELES, Kristine M.	Office Clerk	NMHC	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
ARRIOLA, Jayson E.	Mechanic Assistant	CPA-Airport Operation	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
PAUL, Lee Ann	Office Clerk	CPA-Airport Ports Police	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
SANTOS, Richard G.	Community Dev. Trainee	DYS-Office of the Director	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
SANTOS, Jonathan G.	Community Dev. Trainee	DYS-Office of the Director	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
SACRAMENTO, Rodney J.	Cargo Agent	CTSI	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
DELA CRUZ, Tasha DLG.	Administrative Assistant	NMC-CDI	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
DELEON GUERRERO, Lawrence R.	Office Clerk	DPW-LowerBase Scalehouse	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
QUIZON, Paul R.	Gardener	DCCA-Aging Program	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
LARA, Jemma T	Administrative Assistant	DCCA-Secretary's Office	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
LARA, Alvin T.	Office Clerk	DPW-LowerBase Transfer Station	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
LEYCO, Ian M.	Office Clerk	CPA-ARFF	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
GONZALES, Lucille A.	Office Clerk	NMC-HR	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
GONZALES, Remy A.	Customer Serv. Rep.	NMC-Bookstore	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
JIMENEZ, Shiela B.	Computer Trainee	Judicial Branch	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
CADIANG, Melvin D.	Office Clerk	NMC-HR	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
CADIANG, Alyssa D.	Office Clerk	NMC-Educational Talent Search Program	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
VITUG, Kimberly M.	Administrative Assistant	DPS-BVM Drivers License	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
ALDAN, Lewis F.	Mechanic Assistant	CPA-Airport Operations	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
ALDAN, Lwisa F.	Office Clerk	CPA-Airport Ports Police	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
ALFOREZA, Kristina	Administrative Assistant	DPS-BMV	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
ALFOREZA, Krizzelle P.	Office Clerk	NMC-Educational Talent Search Program	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
REVES, Anastacia O.	Office Clerk	Cong.Ralph Torres	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
CASTRO, Audrey C.	Customer Serv. Rep.	NMC-Bookstore	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
AIZON, Romeo B.	Clerk	DPH-Nursing Administration	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
AIZON, Oym B.	Office Clerk	CMS-Gualo Rai	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
ESPAYOS, Matthew	Administrative Assistant	DPS-BMV	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
ESPAYOS, Elbert	Warehouseman	ACE Susupe	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
CABRERA, Sylvia E.	Office Clerk	DPH-Vital Statistics	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
LITULUMAR, Neil H.	Office Clerk	NMHC	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
TEREGEYO, Johnavin Rico T.	Community Development Trainee	DYS-Office of the Director	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
PETER, Ramona C.	Accounts Receivable	DPH-Garapan	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
GINES, Kay I.	Administrative Assistant	DYS-Office of the Director	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009
TAIMANAO, Jermain	Supply Technician	DPH-Lower Base	2nd Phase August 3 to 28, 2009

For any information, contact W.I.A. at 664-1708/04/07

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XIX, Issue No. 180Published daily at 2/F JP Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950Lynn A. Knight PUBLISHER
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Get moving on Gitmo

On the third day of his presidency, Barack Obama dramatically departed from the disastrous policies of the Bush administration by signing an order promising that the Guantanamo Bay detention center would be closed no later than Jan. 22, 2010. But procrastination from the White House is making it easier for congressional critics to frustrate a step vital to restoring American legitimacy.

Last week, the administration announced that two task forces convened by the president—one examining the status of the remaining 240 Guantanamo detainees, the other studying interrogation policy—wouldn't meet their July 22 deadline for recommendations. Delay in the federal government isn't unusual, and Obama has been multi-tasking since the day he was inaugurated. Still, dilatory decision-making on Guantanamo threatens to give new meaning to the axiom that "justice delayed is justice denied."

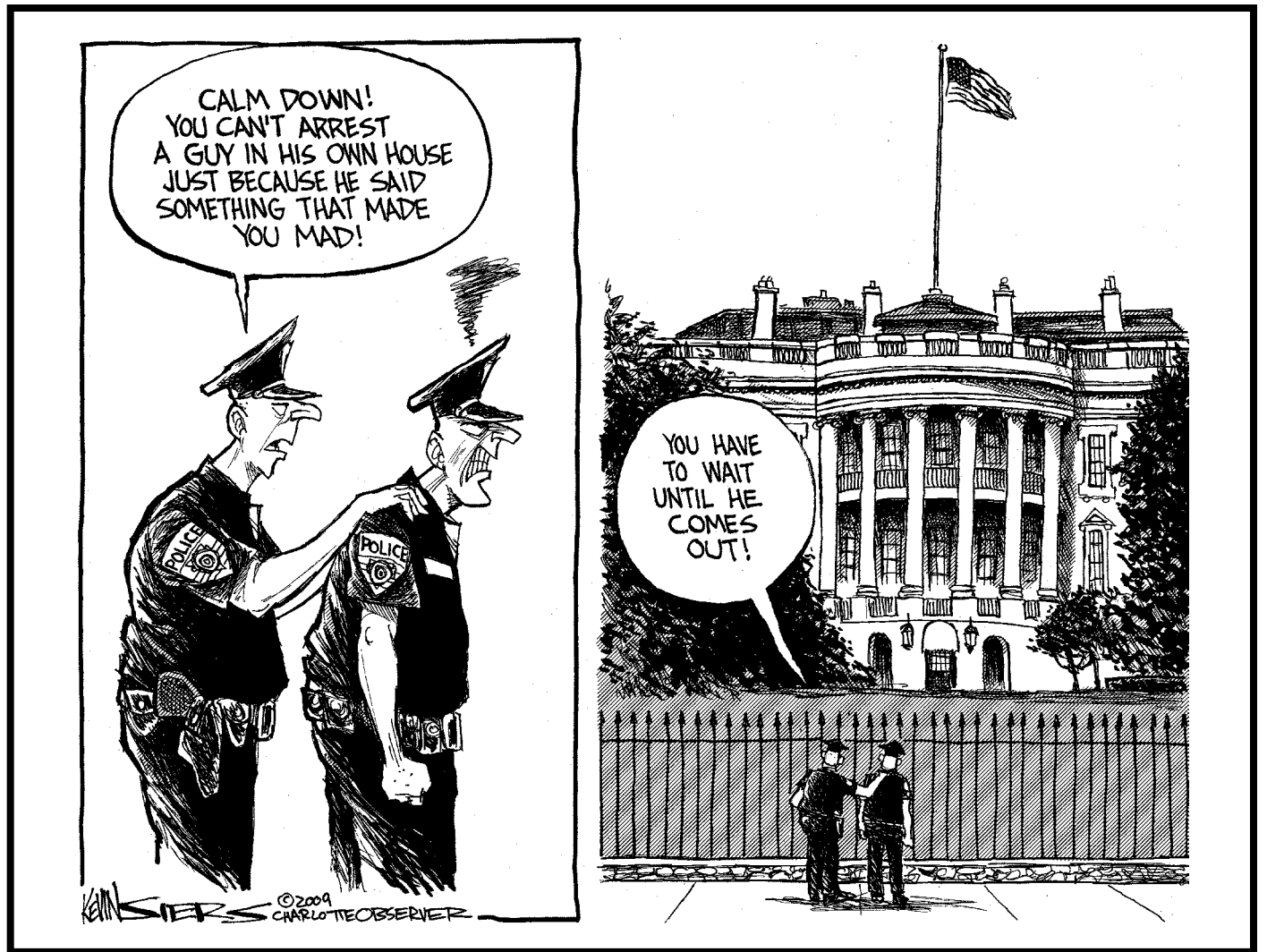
Unlike Bush, Obama is committed to cooperating with Capitol Hill. But Congress isn't reciprocating. Last week, Senate Democratic leaders sidelined the most serious threat to Obama's policy on Guantanamo, an amendment by Sen. Jim Inhofe, R-Okla., to a defense authorization bill that would have kept the facility open and prohibited the transfer of detainees to the United States. But House Democratic leaders continue to oppose providing funds for the closure that the administration is seeking.

In defending his amendment, Inhofe cited polls showing that "most Americans do not want to close Gitmo, and certainly do not want these terrorist detainees to be transferred to the United States." What he didn't say was that those apprehensions have been fed by nonsensical claims that Obama would free dangerous terrorists to run loose in the streets. In fact, prisoners not sent to other countries probably would be held in "supermax" institutions that already hold hundreds of convicted terrorists and from which no one has escaped.

Administration officials are minimizing the importance of the delays, pointing out that 11 detainees have been transferred to other countries, one has pleaded guilty to terrorism-related offenses and another is facing trial. They're also wrestling with whether some detainees are too dangerous to be released, and with the much easier question of whether CIA interrogators should abide by regulations in the Army Field Manual. (They should.) Meanwhile, the screening of individual detainees is far from complete.

In pressing Congress to move on health care reform, Obama said last week that "if you don't set deadlines in this town, things don't happen." He needs to follow that advice when it comes to closing Guantanamo.

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The universe is perfect

Last of a two-part series

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

In search of a better belief system

Last week, I introduced the idea that "The universe is perfect" as the foundational basis for success in every area of life. To summarize: "We live in a perfect, ordered, creative and supportive universe, and everything that happens to us is moving us towards the realization of our goals and the fulfillment of our purpose. It's up to us to find and heed the lessons, identify the opportunities and respond accordingly."

The foundation

My own knowledge that the universe is perfect didn't just spring up overnight. I first had to make a decision. I had to decide that I wanted a different life, a better life, a more fulfilling life, a life that was not limited by history, by fear, by hatred, intolerance or what others believed was possible. Then, it required years of open-mindedness, years of affirmations and positive self-talk. It required a commitment to internalize and apply the teachings of dozens of self-help, motivational, inspirational, philosophical, metaphysical books and audio tapes. It required attending lectures, courses and workshops on personal transformation. It required the determination to live according to a new set of principles. It required patience—the patience to keep practicing the new ways until I saw those principles validated in the my world. It came, quite simply, from immersing and investing myself in my personal growth.

The mind shifts

Looking back over the journey, I can point to several pivotal "mind shifts" that occurred and moved me forward.

1. First came the awareness that there were answers, better answers to the questions I was asking. Then came the awareness that these new answers were often at odds with what I was taught. I also learned that belief in these new answers would brand me as heretic, dissident, misguided, even subversive, and alienate me from the wider population. I learned that practically everything I had been led to believe had been based on faulty premises, misguided motives, and an inadequate understanding of nature, reality, the human

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

condition, and our true origins and purpose.

2. Next came the awareness that I was in complete control of my reactions to life; that my happiness was entirely within my own mind, and that I could choose—yes, actually choose—my reactions to absolutely anything that happened to me. It was not what happened "out there" that determined my happiness, but simply how I chose to respond to it. I learned that I could never change other people, what they believed, or how they responded to me. I could only change my reactions to these things. Such an understanding was (and is) profoundly liberating!

3. Perhaps the most pivotal awareness was the concept of the "life theme." Quite simply, it says that we, as spiritual beings, with an existence beyond this physical form, have "themes" that govern and guide our manifestation here on this plane. We chose these themes as part of our divine presence, purpose and experience here. In other words, we are here by choice with a specific mission. Some of us are here to fight causes, some are artists, some are jesters, victims, pawns, healers, etc. (for the full list of 45 Life Themes, see www.ArtofWow.com)

Without such a pivotal understanding of the meaning of life, everything does seem quite random, inexplicable and even chaotic. Think, however, how all the seemingly premature deaths, war, crime, poverty, and the presumably random illnesses, and apparent handicaps that afflict people would be interpreted if you believed that we chose to be here, chose what themes we wanted to experience, and even chose our "exit points" once our purpose was served? It would explain quite a lot.

You would see people for who and what they have chosen to be, and accept that choice, with all its highs and lows, while you focus on your own.

Similarly, you would see your own place in the grand scheme through different eyes. You could more effectively pursue your reason for being here because you would see the order behind it. It would explain some of the patterns in your life. You'd realize that you attract circumstances in your life to be used as "catalysts" for your growth and the fulfillment of your life theme. You'd realize

See THE UNIVERSE on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

PhysEd

James Rayphand of NMPASI played school principal at SVES but briefly, and while he was there, he tried to revive the function of physical education in the overall curriculum of public education. To naught.

An understanding of the physicality of existence is ontologically foundational among cultures spared from the Manichean influence of the Indo-Aryan tradition that made a radical disjunction between body and soul. That dichotomy would lead unfortunately to the Western notion of the primacy of the soul over the earthiness of the body. Victorian ethics that has left a long trail into the present was a dominant feature of the British Empire. Consequently, the purity of the mind is preferred over the sensual body. The body/mind debate continues to this day.

Within the “dream team” among the NMPASI staff—particularly but not exclusively of the program/project management of James, Jimmy, Greg, and Tom—is the awareness that the so-called normative physical ability is highly prejudicial to those who are differently-abled. One wishes that wisdom to permeate SpEd curriculum. We suggest that learning begins at the portals of our senses. As a father of children diagnosed with autism, I am very clear that being anxious about their ability to manipulate the language of words and numbers misses the core need of their education. As we learn more about the brain and its capabilities, we are better off focusing on the sense perceptions the children are born with rather than trying to find ways they can be ‘normal’ in standardized measures. We can teach them to be excellent painters and dancers, singers and chefs, couturiers and salon keepers, and other non-mainstream professions without making them feel like they are academically deficient.

One would think the above is a common sense observation but sadly, educational curriculum worldwide has bought into the corporate world’s prejudice that manipulating words grades the efficacy of how we communicate, and facility with lining up numbers assesses our operational skills, and these determine the marketability of our employ. We have not listened to the Buffets and the Gates, the Einsteins and the Aristotles, the Tagores and the Gandhis, to mention only a few, who have counseled that the gift of the imagination is immensely more valuable than trying to peg down accurately and precisely memorized facts.

The imagination deals with images, and images have qualities derived from the response of our five senses—what we see, hear, smell, taste and touch. The images we keep determine our behavior. If we change the image, behavior changes. And, of course, when behavior changes, history goes another way. Critical mass is at that point in human behavior when what began as an individual

choice of action becomes the accepted norm. Among primates, that is said to be at 15 percent.

Management consultants worth their keep will point out that any planning methodology which tries to identify on-going contradictions, blocks, or ‘rocks on the road’ will come to naught for as long as people would point to what is not there (wish dreams) rather than what is there (real). It is the choice of the half-empty vs. the half-full perspective.

When asked what is keeping us from achieving our vision, a majority of us will state what is lacking. The dismissible “lack of funds” or “lack of qualified personnel” reveals indolence rather than incompetence. That, or we retreat into the blame game by shaming previously responsible personnel of cupidity and malignant intent.

Identifying what is there provides substance to what one has to deal with, something ‘to chew on’ or ‘take a bite of.’ Thinking that a problem is identified because of what is lacking leads, at best, to further dependencies, or worst, to resignation and despair.

Thus, an educational system that is based on the attainment of what is not there rather than a consciousness of what is there is a losing scheme and program. Presently, our ‘best minds’ are recognized for their ability to quote and recite other peoples’ by-products, rather than cogitate and think for themselves. Stimulating those skills from the venue of competition rather than cooperation compounds the contradiction. Students are more interested in getting ahead, a value with its concomitant putdowns, rather than be a part of a cooperative learning community.

Being No. 1 was the business ethos of the ’80s. That has been the case in public education for a long time. Even the Confucian education that was built on merit rather than status declined rapidly and became calcified in memorizing the tenets of the Analects, creating Mandarin minds of mendacity, rather than the practical and commonsensical bent of the finding the way (Tao). We had a parent who ardently lobbied for her son to be the valedictorian of the finishing class alleging discrimination against her “local” son; another complained that his straight-A child should get the top award though she did not meet the other requirements carefully spelled out in the school handbook given to each parent at the start of the year. The altar of being No. 1 has endless supplicants!

Obesity has become a scourge of contemporary American life. With my middle girth progressively getting rotund in shape, I now find comfort in visiting American shopping malls for the number of people whose body shapes make me look petite. That, or circulate among the Chinese who will call you *xiao pang zi* (small round), by which they mean “cute.”

that things are beyond your control or ability to change. In fact, it’s quite the opposite. The adoption of these (and other) beliefs have the delightful side-effect of reducing fear, reducing uncertainty, reducing confusion, reducing dependency, while increasing confidence, increasing independence, redirecting your focus, and changing your expectations, thus freeing you to be more productive in the things you do decide to focus on.

Because of the perfection of the universe, the builder will always have reason to build. The teacher will have his students. The leader will have her followers. Those who are here to rescue will, by law of attraction, find those who need to be rescued, and so it goes, because the universe is perfect.

Perfection applied

Any belief system that disempowers you, creates fear, sanctions intolerance, dependence, passivity and weakness and that has you relinquish your sense of personal power is doing you a disservice. It is my opinion, as I mentioned in Part I, that the purpose of ANY belief system should be to help you see and interpret reality correctly, understand your role within it, make better survival decisions, grow, be of service to the community and connect you to your higher self to express your greatest potential and power. This belief system has the potential to do just that when applied correctly.

As you take this new belief system with you on your journey through life, people will still attack you. Obstacles will beset you. Things won’t always go the way you think they should. Accidents will happen. People will meet with seemingly untimely fates. Planets will warm. Injustice will be rampant. Poverty will continue. Greed will abound. Industries will fall. Empires will collapse. Things will change. Tires will go flat. Dishes will break. Money will be lost.

However, you won’t be overcome by fear or confusion. You are in sync with perfection. So, rather than seeing these as negatives, you will see them as reminders of why you chose to be here at this time. In these occurrences, you will see your own and others’ life themes being played out. You will recognize how your and other people’s tightly-held expectations lead to unhappiness. You will recognize seemingly disastrous events as catalysts for your growth. You will see the law of cause and effect in action, and, as a result, you will seek and invariably find the reasons why you attracted certain events

By **JAIME VERGARA**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune’s Opinion Section



In my 6th grade class at SVES, we instituted a weekly 15-minute walk-of-silence around the baseball field to encourage consciousness of breathing patterns and body awareness of muscles and joints. In my last class, there were two who were severely afflicted with verbal diarrhea, ceaselessly calling attention to themselves. No amount of encouragement, or even threats, could get them consciously to stretch their muscles and to limber their bones. And why should they? We have discouraged them from climbing trees or balancing their bodies on logs and beams lest they hurt themselves. And when they do, or if they slip in the playground, administrators are justifiably afraid that the lawyers are not too far behind.

Yet, physicality is the starting point of attaining wisdom. With my degenerative spondylosis (spur growth between C6 and C5 cervical bones) that resulted in recurring numbness of extremities and pain in muscle joints limiting my ability to deal with my 25 students as individual units, I resigned from classroom responsibilities mid-school year. I could have dribbled the time and secured the contracted remuneration until the end of the contract period but I was not “smart” enough, instead, I used my situation as a demonstration of what happens when one neglects the care of one’s body. Of course, it is highly questionable that it had any pedagogical impact on anyone!

Curriculum builders at PSS need to revisit the need for adequate physical education. Parents need to know that the simple practice of drinking enough water (rather than the carbonated sugar their children manage to spirit into the classroom, and why shouldn’t they; their teachers do, also!), and getting enough fresh air into the lungs in the early morning, intentionally moving every muscle of the body like what *tai chi* does, can go a long way to enhancing the learning experience.

And my caveat: that students learn to reflect on their experience rather than just echo back facts that we want them to remember constitute a better balanced and fulfilling education than meeting the standardized goals we require of them. How about a universal IEP on PhysEd?

THE UNIVERSE

From Page 10

that everyone else, too, has a theme that they are living out, something they have chosen to express, and so, you would no longer expect the “gurus” to be “catalysts,” nor the “warriors” to be “healers,” nor the “pawns” to be “leaders.”

4. Next is the existence and influence of what I call the “unseen realm.” There is divine order despite appearances. There is an agenda afoot of which we are not aware. There are things about which the majority of men have no clue, that have more influence on our lives than we are led to believe. We have untapped potential and abilities which lie beyond the fringes of our understanding. There are truths about who we are which is unrecognized, overlooked and even suppressed.

■ You have a choice: to live in the service of others, or live in the service of yourself only. Your success and happiness depends on the choice you make.

■ The single cause of unhappiness in life is simply the unmet expectation. Change your expectations, and change your life.

■ The earth is going through changes as part a cosmic shift in consciousness, and we are all here at this moment in time by divine agreement to assist in the transition.

■ There’s a formula for everything. There’s always a way to get from here to there, and the universe is designed and programmed to help you find it.

The benefits

Once you have these (and other) basic understandings of reality, you begin to see evidence to prove, validate and support them everywhere you look. Things become knowable. People become predictable. Events become understandable. You might see evil intent in people’s actions as they live out their own life themes, but you don’t see chaos in the unfolding, so you don’t rail against things happening the way they do, or wonder futilely why people don’t all think and act the same. Essentially, your expectations change, and you see and allow things to unfold.

However, this is not to be interpreted as passivity, nor a resignation

into your life, and the lessons your higher self is constantly offering you through these events. You will see how your unhealthy attachment to material things is constantly being tested. You will see how edifices built on lies inevitably fall. You will recognize the hand of angels orchestrating the pace of events in your life making sure you never arrive too soon or too late for your scheduled appointment with your higher calling. You will recognize the unseen realm of divine order, and natural law that permeates everything. You will take it all in stride, and you will know, beyond doubt.....that the Universe is perfect after all.

■ ■ ■

Note: Fans and followers of the book, *Chicken Feathers and Garlic Skin: Diary of a Chinese Garment Factory Girl on Saipan* may now find copies at Bookseller Bookstore in the Joe-Ten Plaza in Susupe or on Amazon.com. Hurry, there’s a limited supply!

Note: Ever wanted to direct your friends and family to a set of websites that said good things about Saipan? Do what I do: send them to www.bestofsaipan.com!

Note: For more tips on overcoming your fears, acting on your ideas, changing the game, and creating a passion-centered lifestyle, visit www.passionprofit.com!

■ ■ ■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 15 books including *Turn Your Passion Into Profit*. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the *Saipanpreneur* Project and Walt’s philosophy and formula visit www.saipanpreneur.com and www.passionprofit.com.

Announcing: *Walt’s PassionProfit Workshop Coming Soon!* RSVP requested. Will you attend a PassionProfit and/or Writer’s workshop held at a soon-to-be-determined location (perhaps a school or Multi-Purpose Center) if held on a Saturday morning 9-12 or Sunday afternoon 2-5 in August? Please e-mail walt@passionprofit.com with the words “will attend.” Please indicate your preferred day and time in the e-mail. If enough people respond, it will happen!

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. South winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲88 ▼79
Palau	Rain	▲85 ▼78
Yap	Rain	▲86 ▼78
Chuuk	Rain	▲88 ▼76
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲88 ▼79
Kosrae	Rain	▲86 ▼79
Majuro	Showers	▲84 ▼79

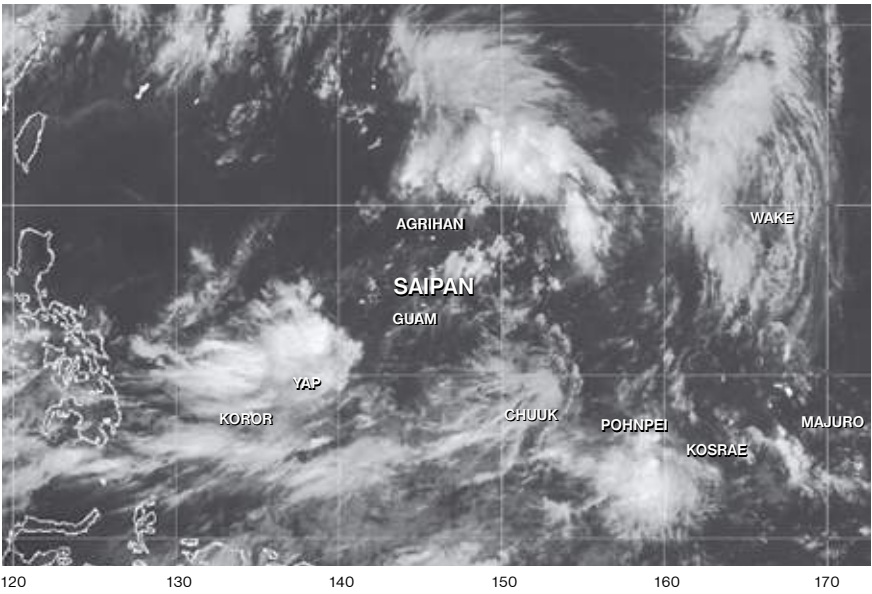
Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲59 ▼45
Beijing	Thundershowers	▲91 ▼72
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲91 ▼82
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲84 ▼76
London	Rain	▲73 ▼52
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲78 ▼64
Manila	Rain	▲82 ▼75
Melbourne	Showers	▲59 ▼45
Miami	Thundershowers	▲89 ▼81
New York	Thundershowers	▲87 ▼71
Osaka	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼77
Paris	Cloudy	▲86 ▼56
Pusan	Cloudy	▲78 ▼71
Rome	Sunny	▲94 ▼68
Salem	Hot	▲102 ▼57
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲69 ▼56
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲88 ▼77
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲88 ▼77
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲90 ▼71

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
12:26 AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
7:49 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
2:29 PM Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
7:18 PM Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough runs westward from 22N153E to a circulation near 22N143E then southward to another circulation northwest of Guam at 14N142E then continues southeast as a monsoon trough to a weak circulation near Kosrae at 6N155E then curves southward to end at EQ167E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found north of the Marianas in an area from 25N146E to 22N156E to 16N156E to 22N150E to 20N144E back to 25N146E and west of Wake Island within 125 miles of a line from 25N162E to 17N165E. Low-level convergence associated with the monsoon trough is causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Chuuk within 75 miles of a line from 11N151E to 8N153E and from south of Pohnpei to southwest of Kosrae in an area from 6N154E to 5N163E to 1N160E back to 6N154E. Surging west winds are producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across Yap and Palau in an area from 13N138E to 7N145E to 3N142E to 6N130E back to 13N138E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers near the date line within 50 miles of a line from 7N177E to 8N180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:59 AM	6:48 PM
Thursday	5:59 AM	6:48 PM
Friday	5:59 AM	6:48 PM
Saturday	5:59 AM	6:47 PM
Sunday	6:00 AM	6:47 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:28 PM	
Thursday	1:22 PM	12:04 AM
Friday	2:16 PM	12:50 AM
Saturday	3:09 PM	1:39 AM
Sunday	4:00 PM	2:29 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- **ISLAND SNAPSHOTS**
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- **BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- **BUSINESS**
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- **SAMUT SARI**
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- **TRAVELOGUE**
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 21, 2009

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP) C09597 11:50am 12:25pm 1, 7	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN C09598 3:15am 3:50am 5, 6 C09312 1:20pm 1:55pm 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM C09597 12:50pm 1:20pm 1, 7	GUAM-ROTA (ROP) C09598 2:10am 2:40am 5, 6 C09312 12:10pm 12:40pm 6
SAIPAN-GUAM C09317 4:20am 5:10am Daily C09313 8:30am 9:20am Daily C09597 11:50am 1:20pm 1, 7 via ROP C09601 12:30pm 1:20pm 4, 5 C09603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily C09605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily C09599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	GUAM-SAIPAN C09598 2:10am 3:50am 5, 6 via ROP C09316 2:20am 3:10am 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 C09596 7:00am 7:50am Daily C09600 10:20am 11:10am 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 C09312 12:10pm 1:55pm 6 via ROP C09602 2:00pm 2:50pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily C09606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) C0941 5:30am 8:05am Daily NW99 6:05am 8:40am Daily NW78 9:00am 2:05pm Daily via NGO NW75 3:50pm 6:25pm Daily C0943 5:25pm 8:00pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN C0942 9:25am 1:55pm Daily NW76 10:00am 2:35pm Daily NW77 6:35pm 1:40am+1 Daily via NGO NW100 8:45pm 1:20am+1 Daily C0944 9:00pm 1:30am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am 1, 3, 4, 6	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:55pm 2:20am+1 2, 3, 5, 7
SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO) NW78 9:00am 11:40am Daily	NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN NW77 9:10pm 1:40am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:20am 6:50am 1, 4, 5, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ604 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ604 2:50am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am 1, 3, 4, 6 via KIX OZ606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ605 9:00am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 2, 3, 5, 7 via KIX OZ603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) FM844 2:50am 5:40am 2, 6	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN FM843 7:15pm 1:50am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) CZ3008 3:30am 6:40am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN CZ3007 7:30pm 2:40am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA OZ604/701 2:20am 11:25am 1 via ICN OZ604/703 2:50am 11:25am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C09603/933 3:30pm 8:40pm Daily via GUM C09599/PR111 9:30pm 7:45am+1 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	MANILA-SAIPAN OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C09596 10:00pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM C0934/9596 10:55pm 7:50am+1 Daily via GUM OZ704/605 11:50pm 2:30pm+1 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG OZ604/721 2:20am 11:45am 1 via ICN OZ604/721 2:50am 11:45am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	HONG KONG-SAIPAN OZ724/605 12:30am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100 7:00am 7:30am Daily				FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100 7:50am 8:20am Daily				FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:00am 9:30am Daily				FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:50am 10:15am Daily				Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300 4:00pm 4:30pm Daily				FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300 4:50pm 5:25pm Daily				FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400 6:00pm 6:30pm Daily				FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400 6:45pm 7:15pm Daily				FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101 6:45am 6:55am Daily				FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103 7:30am 7:40am Daily				FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105 8:00am 8:10am Daily				FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107 8:40am 8:50am Daily				FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109* 9:10am 9:20am Daily							
FRE 111* 10:45am 10:55am Daily							



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

SHEFA receives over 800 applications this summer

Barely five years since opening the door of opportunity to Saipan residents to pursue college education, the SHEFA flagship program is filled to the brim with over 800 applications just this semester.

SHEFA has provided financial assistance for undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate college education at the Northern Marianas College (NMC) or coordinated through NMC, including colleges and universities across the globe that are accredited by U.S. Accrediting Commission on Schools and Colleges which is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

As of 2008, over 200 SHEFA scholars have graduated with Bachelors (B.A.) and Masters (M.A./M.S.) degrees. The bulk of the graduates are employed at the Public School System (PSS) followed by the Northern Marianas College (NMC), Commonwealth Health Center (CHC), Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA), Homeland Security, Criminal Justice Planning Agency (CJPA), Fish and Wildlife, Community and Cultural Affairs, Coastal Resource Management, Honolulu Liaison Office, and the Legislature. The bulk of others are working in private businesses on Saipan, or have joined the military, including continuing their graduate education abroad.

One graduate is working in Washington, D.C. in the U.S. Congress; others in Guam, Hawaii, and the U.S. One is also working in Korea while six have not been employed as of the posting of the data early this year.

The 2009 SHEFA graduate data is under process as of this writing.

Unlike other financial assistance program available for Saipan residents, only SHEFA

supports graduate and postgraduate or doctoral studies.

To qualify for SHEFA post-secondary scholarship assistance, a Saipan resident must have a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale for undergraduates, and 3.0 for graduates and postgraduates. Successful applicants are required to complete at least 12 college credits every semester. The requirement applies to undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate students.

However, the credit requirement for graduate and postgraduate scholars changed this year. The existing policy on graduate and postgraduate credit requirement is recalibrated at nine (9) credits for fulltime classification.

The board also added a part time component to the regulations.

Part time graduates and postgraduates will be required to complete a minimum of six (6) or below nine (9) credits for the term.

Undergraduates must still complete at least 12 credits to maintain fulltime status and a minimum of six (6) or below 12 credits to qualify for part time classification.

The deadline to submit SHEFA application and the required support materials remains on the first of July for the Fall term. Spring term deadline is still on the first of December of the same year.

SHEFA offers financial assistance only during the fall and spring of the academic year.

According to SHEFA board chairwoman Felicidad Ogu-moro, Saipan's first flagship scholarship program was jettisoned with fewer than 200 applications in 2005, but saw a doubling in number in 2006-2007. Since then, the number has continued to climb, averaging at around 500-600 applica-

tions every semester up to January of this year for the Spring 2009 academic term.

SHEFA's declared mission remains "to invest in the limited human capital resources of qualified residents of Saipan (inclusive of the Northern Islands) through a supplementary financial assistance ... for purposes of pursuing *post-secondary education* on Saipan or abroad, ... with the broad expectation...on recipients ... to return to (or remain on) Saipan upon a successful completion of a higher education ... (in order to) provide services on Saipan in the private sector, government, nongovernmental (NGO) organization as well as not-for-profit organization."

However, Public Law 16-15, which passed last year, allows government scholarship recipients and graduates not to come back home or even remain on Saipan for a period of two years. The law also allows forbearance on repayment for unemployed scholarship recipients, including those who later enlist in the military.

Consequently, the board crafted a service credit regulation to comport not only with SHEFA's mission but also with the forbearance law. The intent of the amended regulation is to make it easier on graduates and non-graduate recipients alike to be able to provide the requisite services referenced in its mission statement that is intended to benefit Saipan residents at home or abroad. This regulation would allow SHEFA scholars or graduates and recipients who terminated their studies to still perform the required services, which commensurate with the terms and conditions of the SHEFA promissory note/memorandum of agreement.

Besides gearing up for the implementation of the re-

cently adopted part time and service credit regulations, and studying further the loan component of the postsecondary assistance program, SHEFA has to contend with over 800 applications this Fall academic term, 200 more applications than in previous years.

Compounding the complexity of the situation is a local law which passed recently allowing *non-high school* graduates to tap into the SHEFA cookie jar. The board has elected to consult with members of the Saipan delegation over the implementation of the law, especially with the potential for non-high school graduates, including high school dropouts to tap into the funds intended for college education.

The SHEFA program provides basic foundation grant, priority field of study scholarship and the scholar award (i.e., "best & brightest" scholarship). SHEFA's coveted best and brightest award requires a semester grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale for undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate scholars. Unlike the scholar award, the basic grant and field of study awards require a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5 on a scale of 4.0. The scholar award also restricts students from repeating courses or factoring in remedial /developmental course grades / credits in the semester GPA calculation.

Of the four types of college assistance available to Saipan residents, including its non-cash career prep voucher credit, only the student loan component has yet to be implemented. The regulatory framework for the loan component has been published this year, but the board decided to place on hold its implementa-

tion pending consultation with the legislative delegation.

Most U.S.-accredited colleges and universities, including Northern Marianas College (NMC), kick off the Fall academic year move-in schedule immediately followed by classes in the latter part of August or mid-September this year. Mindful of this academic schedule, the SHEFA board has started working feverishly perusing a stack of 800-plus applications and supporting documents- an all time record high and in sharp contrast to the fewer than 200 applications received when SHEFA first opened the door of post-secondary opportunities for the residents of Saipan.

SHEFA is funded wholly from the poker operatives on Saipan taken from the amusement licenses and fees collected quarterly from arcade operatives.

The administration of the SHEFA program is placed in the Saipan Mayor's Office under the governing authority of the SHEFA board of directors, when Saipan Local Law 13-21 first established the seminal scholarship program, aimed at providing supplemental assistance to Saipan residents. The 13th

Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation (SNILD) headed then and currently by Senate President Pete P. Reyes passed the enabling legislation signed into law by then Governor Juan N. Babauta.

Once the CNMI Treasury Office processes and releases the batch of SHEFA checks, the board will begin the check disbursement daily (except Fridays and holidays) from 10am to 1pm at its Garapan office.

The board plans on sending the first batch early next month.

For more detailed information on the rules & regulations of the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance (SHEFA) program, visit the SHEFA website at www.saipanshefa.com, or contact the office by e-mail at contact@saipanshefa.com.

Office hours are from 8am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, except austerity and legal holidays at which time the office may be reached directly at telephone number (670) 233-5995 or queries may be made using SHEFA's facsimile at (670) 233-5996. Due to time differences abroad, the SHEFA Office is equipped with retrievable voice messages and may be accessed at (670) 233-5995. (PR)

DEQ sets Tanapag beach cleanup

The Division of Environmental Quality cleanup brigade will be picking up trash at Tanapag Social Hall in Tanapag on Aug. 1, 2009.

If you would like to volunteer your time to clean and beautify our island, meet with the group at 8am at the social hall. Volunteers will split into groups and clean north and south of Tanapag Beach until 10am, break for drinks, and then continue, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a green brigade t-shirt.

The DEQ cleanup brigade began in 1996 and continues to maintain clean, healthy beaches.

For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500. (DEQ)

SHIPPING SCHEDULE



Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
MELL SEMBAWANG	016E	7/18 Sat	7/16 Thu	7/16 Thu	7/14 Tue	7/11 Sat	7/24 Fri	7/20 Mon	7/19 Sun	7/12 Sun	7/12 Sun	7/20 Mon	7/24 Fri	7/26 Sun	7/28 Tue
MELL SENOKO	025E	7/25 Sat	7/23 Thu	7/23 Thu	7/21 Tue	7/18 Sat	7/31 Fri	7/27 Mon	7/26 Sun	7/19 Sun	7/19 Sun	7/27 Mon	7/31 Fri	8/2 Sun	8/4 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	024E	8/1 Sat	7/30 Thu	7/30 Thu	7/28 Tue	7/25 Sat	8/7 Fri	8/3 Mon	8/2 Sun	7/26 Sun	7/26 Sun	8/3 Mon	8/7 Fri	8/9 Sun	8/11 Tue
MELL SEMBAWANG	017E	8/8 Sat	8/6 Thu	8/6 Thu	8/4 Tue	8/1 Sat	8/14 Fri	8/10 Mon	8/9 Sun	8/2 Sun	8/2 Sun	8/10 Mon	8/14 Fri	8/16 Sun	8/18 Tue
MELL SENOKO	026E	8/15 Sat	8/13 Thu	8/13 Thu	8/11 Tue	8/8 Sat	8/21 Fri	8/17 Mon	8/16 Sun	8/9 Sun	8/9 Sun	8/17 Mon	8/21 Fri	8/23 Sun	8/25 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	025E	8/22 Sat	8/20 Thu	8/20 Thu	8/18 Tue	8/15 Sat	8/28 Fri	8/24 Mon	8/23 Sun	8/16 Sun	8/16 Sun	8/24 Mon	8/28 Fri	8/30 Sun	9/1 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA GenSan	ETA Davao	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SEMBAWANG	016E	8/1 Sat	8/2 Sun	8/2 Sun	SKIP	8/6 Thu	8/7 Fri	8/9 Sun	8/11 Tue	8/14 Fri	8/15 Sat	8/20 Thu	9/8 Tue	8/23 Sun
MELL SENOKO	025E	8/8 Sat	8/9 Sun	8/9 Sun	8/11 Tue	8/13 Thu	8/14 Fri	8/16 Sun	8/18 Tue	8/21 Fri	8/22 Sat	8/27 Thu	9/15 Tue	8/30 Sun
MELL SENTOSA	024E	8/15 Sat	8/16 Sun	8/16 Sun	SKIP	8/20 Thu	8/21 Fri	8/23 Sun	8/25 Tue	8/28 Fri	8/29 Sat	9/3 Thu	9/22 Tue	9/6 Sun
MELL SEMBAWANG	017E	8/22 Sat	8/23 Sun	8/23 Sun	8/25 Tue	8/27 Thu	8/28 Fri	8/30 Sun	9/1 Tue	9/4 Fri	9/5 Sat	9/10 Thu	9/29 Tue	9/13 Sun
MELL SENOKO	026E	8/29 Sat	8/30 Sun	8/30 Sun	SKIP	9/3 Thu	9/4 Fri	9/6 Sun	9/8 Tue	9/11 Fri	9/12 Sat	9/17 Thu	10/6 Tue	9/20 Sun
MELL SENTOSA	025E	9/5 Sat	9/6 Sun	9/6 Sun	9/8 Tue	9/10 Thu	9/11 Fri	9/13 Sun	9/15 Tue	9/18 Fri	9/19 Sat	9/24 Thu	10/13 Tue	9/27 Sun

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Jaime P. Salazar
Outbound
Direct line (670) 236-2410

Leslie F. Rodriguez
Sales and Marketing
Direct line (670) 236-2402



Business

To ease price swings, US may limit energy trading

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal regulators are hearing from consumers, businesses, traders and financial firms as they consider imposing limits on speculative trading of energy futures contracts—a move that would mark a major shift for the government.

The futures contracts are supposed to lessen price volatility. But speculators use them to bet on market prices, and critics say this magnifies price swings. Regulators, they maintain, have long let speculation in energy markets inflict financial pain, triggering wild price swings, hurting gasoline wholesalers, damaging airlines and squeezing consumers.

The Commodity Futures Trading Commission was holding the first in a series of hearings on the subject on Tuesday.

"I believe we're going to do something," Bart Chilton, one of the four CFTC commissioners, said in a recent interview. "I would be extremely surprised if



In this July 9, 2009 file photo, traders await the natural gas inventory numbers at the New York Mercantile Exchange in New York.

we don't take some action to set hard limits" on energy futures contracts held by speculators, as well as those in metals.

CFTC Chairman Gary Gen-

sler sounded less certain about the outcome. "My firm belief is that we must aggressively use all existing authorities to ensure market integrity and ef-

ficiency," he said.

Agency spokesman Scott Schneider said that if the CFTC adopted new restrictions, it likely would happen in late summer or early fall. Specifically, the

agency is weighing whether to restrict the amount of trading in energy futures by those who are solely financial investors.

The free-market sentiment that held sway in Washington for years helps explain why regulators kept their hands off the volatile oil futures markets. The Bush administration generally opposed tighter regulation in the financial industry.

Though the CFTC is supposed to be independent and insulated from politics, "there were people appointed to the CFTC who were part and parcel of the philosophy of the Bush administration," said Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D.

Another reason why the agency's hands-off approach prevailed for so long, critics say, was the deep-pocketed financial industry and its lobbying muscle. The industry opposes new limits on speculative trading, arguing they would crimp the cash flowing through the market and drive business overseas.

Home sales rise as housing market tries a comeback

WASHINGTON (AP)—New home sales rose last month at the fastest clip in more than eight years as buyers eagerly took advantage of bargain prices—a clear sign, economists said, that the real estate market may finally be bouncing back.

Historically low interest rates and a federal tax credit for first-time homeowners also helped push home sales to their highest level since November, the Commerce Department reported Monday.

While home prices are still falling around the country, sales have now risen for three months in a row. Construction of new homes

is at the busiest level since last fall. And home resales rose in June for the third straight month.

"The worst of the housing recession," said David Resler, chief economist at Nomura Securities, "is now behind us." And as with the overall economy, the "recovery" is likely to be slow and arduous, he said.

Put in perspective, the improvement in sales is modest. The pace of sales for new homes in June was still 72 percent below the peak of four summers ago, and there is still an enormous inventory of homes lingering on the market.

"There's been signs of im-

provement, but we're a long ways off from being back to a normal market," said Corey Barton, president of CBH Homes in Meridian, Idaho. Sales were up there in June, but Barton stressed: "It wasn't our biggest jump in eight years."

But there were clear signs the housing market is showing more than life than it has at any point since the recession began. Keystone Custom Homes of Lancaster, Pa., which was founded in 1992, had its best June ever. July is looking good, and president Larry Wisdom expects an even stronger August.

SEC rule on 'naked' short-selling now permanent

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal regulators on Monday made permanent an emergency rule put in at the height of last fall's market turmoil that aims to reduce abusive short-selling.

The Securities and Exchange Commission announced that it took the action on the rule targeting so-called "naked" short-selling, which was due to expire Friday.

Short-sellers bet against a stock. They generally borrow a company's shares, sell them,

and then buy them when the stock falls and return them to the lender—pocketing the difference in price.

"Naked" short-selling occurs when sellers don't even borrow the shares before selling them, and then look to cover positions sometime after the sale.

The SEC rule includes a requirement that brokers must promptly buy or borrow securities to deliver on a short sale.

Brokers acting for short sellers must find a party believed

to be able to deliver the shares within three days after the short-sale trade. If the shares aren't delivered within that time, there is deemed to be a "failure to deliver." Brokers can be subject to penalties if the failure to deliver isn't resolved by the start of trading on the following day.

At the same time, the SEC has been considering several new approaches to reining in rushes of regular short-selling that also can cause dramatic plunges in stock prices.

Stocks edge higher on mixed signs about economy

NEW YORK (AP)—Investors are still building on a stock market rally even when the news isn't all great.

Stocks edged higher Monday after zigzagging in subdued trading on mixed economic and corporate earnings reports.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose only 15 points. But modest moves in the market's indicators belie larger forces at work: Investors aren't dump-

ing stocks, even in the face of downbeat news.

Disappointing earnings from Verizon Communications Inc., Aetna Inc. and Corning Inc. kept the market's gains in check, adding another pause to a powerful rally that has sent major indexes rocketing 11 percent in just two weeks.

RadioShack Corp. reported higher second-quarter earnings that beat forecasts, but mainly

from cost-cutting—a theme that has become familiar this earnings season and has left many investors disappointed.

Stocks are steady in part because many investors aren't retreating for fear of missing another rally. Even earlier this month, when a spring rally was still stalled, investors likely would have looked to the news out Monday as reason to sell.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oil hovers near \$68 as 3-week rally stalls

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices hovered near \$68 a barrel Tuesday in Asia as a three-week rally stalled amid mixed economic and corporate news. Benchmark crude for September delivery was up 5 cents to \$68.43 a barrel by midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. On Monday, the contract rose 33 cents to settle at \$68.38. Oil has surged from \$58.78 a barrel earlier this month as solid second quarter company earnings bolstered investor optimism that the global economy is recovering.

Aetna 2Q profit falls on higher-than-expected cost

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Health insurer Aetna Inc. chopped its 2009 profit outlook for the second time since June on Monday and said its second-quarter profit sank 28 percent, as medical costs rose faster than it expected. Hartford, Conn.-based Aetna blamed health care providers and the slumping economy for costs that exceeded what the managed care company expected when it set premiums. Aetna said the amount of work providers are doing on patients per diagnosis has increased, as they look to squeeze out more revenue. "We think there's a tendency to maximize or optimize their revenue streams by doing more things," Aetna Chief Financial Officer Joe Zubretsky said. "Clearly there's a behavior change."

Verizon 2Q profit falls, tops view, plans job cuts

NEW YORK (AP)—Cost-cutting at Verizon Communications Inc.'s wireline business failed to keep pace with falling revenues as the nation's largest wireless carrier reported a 21 percent drop in second-quarter profit and announced further job cuts. The company said Monday it will cut more than 8,000 employee and contractor jobs before the end of the year in the wireline business, speeding up its efforts to keep costs in line, according to chief financial officer John Killian. In recent years, Verizon has balanced layoffs in wireline with hiring in wireless, but Chief Operating Officer Denny Strigl said that would not be the case this time.

Amgen 2Q profit rises 40 percent on lower costs

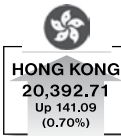
THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (AP)—Biotechnology company Amgen Inc. said Monday second-quarter profit jumped 40 percent on a tax benefit and lower costs following a restructuring program, despite a continued decline in anemia drug sales. The better-than-expected financial results mark a turnaround from a disappointing first-quarter report, prompting the company to boost its full-year profit outlook while investors pushed shares higher in after-hours trading. The company earned \$1.27 billion, or \$1.25 per share, up from profit of \$906 million, or 84 cents per share, during the year-earlier period. Revenue fell 1 percent to \$3.71 billion from \$3.76 billion.

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

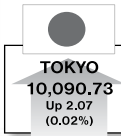


AUSTRALIA
4,173.80
Up 26.00
(0.63%)

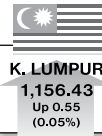


HONG KONG
20,392.71
Up 141.09
(0.70%)

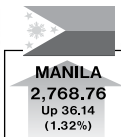
JAKARTA
2,224.64
Up 15.54
(0.70%)



TOKYO
10,090.73
Up 2.07
(0.02%)



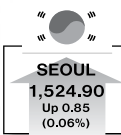
K. LUMPUR
1,156.43
Up 0.55
(0.05%)



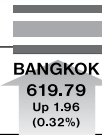
MANILA
2,768.76
Up 36.14
(1.32%)



SINGAPORE
2,608.00
Up 31.34
(1.22%)



SEOUL
1,524.90
Up 0.85
(0.06%)



BANGKOK
619.79
Up 1.96
(0.32%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
9,108.51
15.27

NASDAQ
1,967.89
0.00

S&P
982.18
0.00

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.2043
British Pound	0.6151
Canadian Dollar	1.0790
Chinese Renminbi	6.8308
Euro	0.7003
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7501
Indian Rupee	48.2150
Indonesian Rupiah	9,980.0000
Japanese Yen	95.1400
Malaysian Ringgit	3.5108
New Zealand Dollar	1.5152
Philippine Peso	48.0950
Singapore Dollar	1.4397
South Korean Won	1,236.4250
Swiss Franc	1.0680
Taiwan Dollar	32.7570
Thailand Baht	33.9670

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Nation

Sources: Senate group omitting Dem health goals

WASHINGTON (AP)—After weeks of secretive talks, a bipartisan group in the Senate edged closer Monday to a health care compromise that omits a requirement for businesses to offer coverage to their workers and lacks a government insurance option that President Barack Obama favors, according to numerous officials.

Like bills drafted by Democrats, the proposal under discussion by six members on the Senate Finance Committee would bar insurance companies from denying coverage to any applicant. Nor could insurers charge higher premiums on the basis of pre-existing medical conditions.

But it jettisons other core Democratic provisions in a reach for bipartisanship on an issue that has so far

produced little.

The effort received a boost during the day from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, normally a close ally of Republicans. In a letter to committee leaders, the business group called for the panel to “act promptly, preferably before” the Senate’s scheduled vacation at the end of next week. In doing so, the business organization dealt a blow to the Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky and other GOP lawmakers who have called repeatedly for Democrats to slow down.

In yet another boost for the drive to enact legislation, PhRMA, which represents drug companies, has purchased more than \$500,000 worth of television ads to air during the

week in nine states.

Obama’s top domestic priority has suffered numerous setbacks in recent weeks, and Republicans have stepped up their criticism. Administration and Democratic leaders hope to show significant progress before lawmakers begin their monthlong recess in hopes of regaining momentum.

In the House, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said, “We’re on schedule to do it now or do it whenever,” when asked whether the House would complete its bill before lawmakers leave at the end of the week. Democrats called a meeting of all their House members late Monday afternoon.

In the Senate, officials stressed that

no agreement has been reached on a bipartisan measure, and said there is no guarantee of one. They also warned that numerous key issues remain to be settled, including several options to pay for the legislation. They spoke on condition of anonymity, saying they were not authorized to discuss matters under private negotiations.

They said any legislation that emerges from the talks is expected to provide for a non-profit cooperative to sell insurance in competition with private industry, rather than giving the federal government a role in the marketplace. The White House and numerous Democrats in Congress have called for a government option to provide competition to private companies and hold down costs.

BORDER PROTECTION

In this June 18, 2009 photo, technicians and mechanics from General Atomics move the Predator B, an unmanned surveillance aircraft, from an air hangar at Fort Drum, N.Y. The United States Customs and Border Protection’s service announced that it is testing the Predator B to judge whether the drone can be used more widely along the U.S.-Canada border, including at a crossing where cigarette and drug smuggling are a continuing problem.

AP



Hawaii again declares Obama birth certificate real

HONOLULU (AP)—State officials in Hawaii on Monday said they have once again checked and confirmed that President Barack Obama was born in Hawaii and is a natural-born American citizen, and therefore meets a key constitutional requirement for being president.

Health Director Dr. Chiyome Fukino said she hoped to end lingering rumors about Obama’s birthplace.

“I ... have seen the original vital records maintained on file by the Hawaii State Department of Health verifying Barack Hussein Obama was born in Hawaii and is a natural-born

American citizen,” she said in a brief statement. “I have nothing further to add to this statement or my original statement issued in October 2008 over eight months ago.”

So-called “birthers”—who claim Obama is ineligible to be president because, they argue, he was actually born outside the United States—have grown more vocal recently on blogs and television news shows.

Fukino issued a similar press release Oct. 31, but was prompted to speak out again because of the renewed attention on Obama’s beginnings. Hawaii’s Health Department

has been flooded in recent weeks with questions from individuals and several national TV news networks asking for proof that Obama was indeed born in Hawaii.

“They just keep asking over and over and over again,” Health Department spokeswoman Janice Okubo said.

The Constitution states that a person must be a “natural-born citizen” to be eligible for the presidency. Birthers contend that Obama’s birth certificate is a fake, and many say he was actually born in Kenya, his father’s homeland. They have challenged his citizenship in court.

AP IMPACT: Dodd, Conrad told deals were sweetened

WASHINGTON (AP)—Despite their denials, influential Democratic Sens. Kent Conrad and Chris Dodd were told from the start they were getting VIP mortgage discounts from one of the nation’s largest lenders, the official who handled their loans has told Congress in secret testimony.

Both senators have said that at the time the mortgages were being written they didn’t know they were getting unique deals from Countrywide Financial Corp., the company that went on to lose billions of dollars on home loans to credit-strapped borrowers. Dodd still maintains he got no preferential treatment.

Dodd got two Countrywide mortgages in 2003, refinancing his home

in Connecticut and another residence in Washington. Conrad’s two Countrywide mortgages in 2004 were for a beach house in Delaware and an eight-unit apartment building in Bismarck in his home state of North Dakota.

Robert Feinberg, who worked in Countrywide’s VIP section, told congressional investigators last month that the two senators were made aware that “who you know is basically how you’re coming in here.”

“You don’t say ‘no’ to the VIP,” Feinberg told Republican investigators for the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, according to a transcript obtained by The Associated Press.

The next day, Feinberg testified be-

fore the Senate Ethics Committee, an indication the panel is actively investigating two of the chamber’s more powerful members:

■ Dodd heads the Banking Committee and is a major player in two big areas: solving the housing foreclosure and financial crises and putting together an overhaul of the U.S. health care system. A five-term senator, he is in a tough fight for re-election in 2010, partly because of the controversy over his mortgages.

■ Conrad chairs the Budget Committee. He, too, shares an important role in the health care debate, as well as on legislation to curb global warming.

Both senators were VIP borrowers in the program known as “friends of Angelo.”

Gates 911 call: Witness not sure she sees crime

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP)—The 911 caller who reported two men possibly breaking into the home of black Harvard scholar Henry Louis Gates Jr. did not describe their race, acknowledged they might just be having a hard time with the door and said she saw two suitcases on the porch.

Cambridge police on Monday released the 911 recording and radio transmissions from the scene in an effort to show they had nothing to hide, but the tapes raised new questions about how and why the situation escalated.

Gates’ July 16 arrest on a disorderly conduct charge sparked a national debate about whether the professor was a victim of racial profiling. Gates, returning from a trip to China, and his driver had forced their way through the front door because it was jammed, and the charge was later dropped.

In her 911 call, Lucia Whalen, who works at the Harvard alumni magazine, repeatedly tells the operator she is not sure what is happening.

Speaking calmly, she tells the operator that she was stopped by an elderly woman who told her she noticed two men trying to get into a house. Whalen initially says she saw two men pushing on the door, but later says one of the men entered the home and she didn’t get a good look at him. She says she noticed two suitcases.

ACROSS THE NATION

Texas investigators stunned by child dismemberment

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—The scene was so gruesome investigators could barely speak: A 3 1/2-week-old boy lay dismembered in the bedroom of a single-story house, three of his tiny toes chewed off, his face torn away, his head severed and his brains ripped out. “At this particular scene you could have heard a pin drop,” San Antonio Police Chief William McManus said Monday. “No one was speaking. It was about as somber as it could have been.” Officers called to the home early Sunday found the boy’s mother, Otty Sanchez, sitting on the couch with a self-inflicted wound to her chest and her throat partially slashed, screaming “I killed my baby! I killed my baby!” police said. She told officers the devil made her do it, police said.

Man grins while charged in deaths of 2 deputies

WEWOKA, Okla. (AP)—A man accused of killing two deputies who were trying to arrest him grinned and chuckled to himself as he appeared in court Monday and learned prosecutors intend to seek the death penalty. Ezekiel Gilbert Ray Holbert, 26, of Seminole, was charged in Seminole County District Court with two counts of first-degree murder in the shootings Sunday of sheriff’s deputies Robbie Chase Whitebird, 23, and Marvin Williams, 43. A judge ordered Holbert held without bond. With his hands and ankles shackled, Holbert appeared to wince as a deputy helped him to his feet to answer the judge’s questions. One of his eyes was blackened and swollen. Armed deputies escorted Holbert into the courtroom and stood behind him during the brief hearing.

Police: Woman accused of killing newborn ate brain

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—A woman charged with murdering her 3 1/2-week-old son used a knife and two swords to dismember the child and ate parts of his body, including his brain, before stabbing herself in the torso and slicing her own throat, police said Monday. Otty Sanchez, 33, is charged with capital murder in the death of her infant son, Scott Wesley Buchholtz-Sanchez. She was recovering from her wounds at a hospital, and was being held on \$1 million bail. San Antonio Police Chief William McManus said the early Sunday morning attack occurred a week after the child’s father moved out. Otty Sanchez’s sister and her sister’s two children, ages 5 and 7, were in the house, but none were harmed.

Ga. man kills wife, grandson, self on anniversary

EAST POINT, Ga. (AP)—George Doby had been married to Edna 57 years on the day authorities say he shot her to death in the back yard. Police say he also killed their 12-year-old grandson before taking his own life. The gunshots rang out as two of the couple’s children and four of their grandchildren were visiting for a Sunday dinner to celebrate the anniversary. The couple’s son ran outside to find both his parents and his son Jacob dead. The motive for the shootings is unknown, but a neighbor who was friends with the family said 82-year-old Edna Doby’s health had been declining, and 87-year-old George was caring for her. “This was an all-American family,” Police Capt. Russell Popham said. “The family’s still struggling to understand why he did it and obviously we’ll never know now.”

Asia

RP president vows not to seek fresh term

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, faced with the prospect of civil unrest unless she steps down at the end of her term, has vowed not to try to extend her time in office.

In her final state of the nation address Monday, Arroyo defended her record during her turbulent 8 1/2 years in power and assured lawmakers she would not lift term limits set by the constitution.

"I have never expressed the desire to extend myself beyond my term," Arroyo said. "At the end of this speech I shall step down from this stage ... but not from the presidency. My term does not end until next year."

She also said she will defend democracy when threatened by violence in her last months in power—a clear warning to anyone plotting to remove her by force.

The 62-year-old U.S.-trained economist has survived four coup attempts and four impeachment bids since 2001. Her opponents have accused her of maneuvering to extend her six-year term either by amending the country's 1987 constitution to lift term limits or by imposing martial law.

A Philippine president is lim-

ited to one six-year term, but Arroyo, a former vice president, served part of another term after succeeding Joseph Estrada, who was deposed in a 2001 military-backed revolt on corruption charges.

Riot police on Monday used trucks, barbed wire and shipping containers to block more than 10,000 people who braved the rain to protest outside the House of Representatives, where Arroyo gave her hourlong annual speech. Protest leaders warned Arroyo of public unrest if she clings to power.

"Ms. Arroyo's political maneuvers ... to perpetuate herself in power will surely face the people's wrath," said leftist Rep. Rafael Mariano, who boycotted Arroyo's speech and joined the protesters.

Opposition Rep. Roilo Golez, Arroyo's former national security adviser, said the president's promise not to extend her stay in office "may not be as categorical as some people would want it, but it sounded like goodbye."

U.S. Ambassador Kristie Kenney also said Arroyo's address "sounded like a final" speech in Congress.

Left-wing activist and lawmaker Satur Ocampo, however, said Arroyo failed to ask her



Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, center, greets the crowd as she finishes her last State of the Nation Address at the House of Representatives in suburban Quezon City, north of Manila, Philippines on Monday, July 27, 2009.

congressional allies to stop efforts to amend the constitution to extend her term. "Such uncertainty will continue to fuel protests," he said.

The rowdy demonstrators set on fire a huge effigy of Arroyo, who was depicted as a decomposing figure in a red dress atop a military tank labeled "Gloria For-

ever." A huge streamer read, "Gloria, you're history." Eleven priests in white cassocks held letters that formed the phrase, "Enough of GMA," Arroyo's initials.

In her speech, Arroyo said she was the first Southeast Asian leader invited to the White House for a meeting Thursday with President Barack Obama.

On the agenda will be security issues and terrorism, Arroyo said. U.S. troops have been training Filipino soldiers battling al-Qaida-linked militants in the southern Philippines.

Arroyo also said her government's fiscal measures protected the Philippine economy from the global financial meltdown, resulting in sustained growth over 33 quarters and getting close to a balanced budget. She also pointed to advances in education, promotion of next year's automated elections, improvements in infrastructure and initiating fresh peace bids with Muslim and communist rebels.

Rosario Guzman, an economist with Ibon Foundation Inc. which researches socio-economic issues, said the deficit remains huge while education and infrastructure are inadequate.

The Philippines, which depends heavily on remittances from millions of overseas workers to fuel its economy, also remains vulnerable to the effects of the global economic crisis, Guzman said.

Suu Kyi awarded Amnesty's highest honor

Karzai: Afghans want rules for troops changed

KABUL (AP)—A confident President Hamid Karzai on Monday offered peace talks to Taliban militants if they renounce violence and called for a new relationship with the West if he wins a second term in next month's presidential election. Karzai is considered the favorite in the Aug. 20 vote. But his chances could hinge on his fellow Pashtuns in the turbulent south and east, where U.S. and British forces this month have suffered some of their highest casualties of the eight-year war.

His only serious competition in the 39-candidate field is believed to be former Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah, who could force a runoff if a low turnout among the Pashtuns, the country's biggest ethnic group and the heart of the Taliban ranks, prevents Karzai from claiming a majority of the votes.

In an interview with The Associated Press in his modest office, Karzai reached out to disaffected Pashtuns, calling for a dialogue with Taliban members who are not affiliated with al-Qaida and who are willing to repudiate violence "and announce that publicly."

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar's democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi has won Amnesty International's highest award for her defense of human rights, underscoring international support for the Nobel laureate whose trial is ending Tuesday.

She is widely expected to be convicted of violating the terms of her house arrest and faces a possible five years in prison, although there has been speculation she may stay under house arrest rather than serve time in jail.

Neither international outrage nor offers of closer ties with the U.S. if Suu Kyi is freed appear to have deflected the ruling junta's determination to neutralize—if not imprison—the 64-year-old. The international community and Suu Kyi's local supporters worry the ruling junta has found an excuse to



Suu Kyi

keep her behind bars through elections planned for next year.

Human rights watchdog Amnesty International gave Suu Kyi its Ambassador of Conscience Award on Monday, hoping its highest honor would help deter the junta from imposing any harsh new punishments on her. The Irish band U2 was to publicly announce the award at a Dublin concert Monday night.

"In those long and often dark years, Aung San Suu Kyi has remained a symbol of hope, courage and the undying defense of human rights," Amnesty's Secretary General Irene Khan said of her long detention.

Suu Kyi—who has spent nearly 14 of the last 20 years under house arrest—is charged with violating the terms of her detention by harboring an American man, also being tried, who

swam uninvited to her lakeside home and stayed for two days.

Her defense team is preparing to give its final arguments in the case on Tuesday, a day after the prosecution delivered its closing remarks.

Suu Kyi's lawyer, Nyan Win, said he anticipated the verdict in two to three weeks.

The defense team submitted an application to the court Monday to allow them to call a Myanmar foreign ministry official as an additional witness, but the court is unlikely to accept the request. The court has allowed only two defense witnesses to testify, while the prosecution has been allowed 14.

Nyan Win said the defense has records that former U.N. representative Nyunt Maung Shein defended the regime's continued detention of Suu Kyi, stating that "(Suu Kyi) was not arrested but was detained for her own security."

Taiwan, China leaders exchange 1st direct messages

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—The Taiwanese and Chinese presidents swapped messages Monday, the first such exchange since the two sides split amid civil war 60 years ago.

They did so in their capacity as ruling party leaders, rather than as heads of state, to skirt the disputed issue of Taiwan's sovereignty.

It was the latest sign in rapidly improving relations between the once bitter enemies. In the 14 months since Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou took power, those ties have morphed from mutual suspicion and antipathy to bilateral expressions of amity and understanding, amid thriving trade and investment.

According to a statement from Ma's Nationalist Party, Chinese President and Communist Party chief Hu Jintao sent a telegram to the Taiwanese leader congratulating him on his election Sunday as party chairman, and told him he hopes his party can work with the Nationalists in the best interest of both sides.

ASIAN BRIEFS

China unhappy with Uighur activist's Japan trip

BEIJING (AP)—China's Foreign Ministry criticized Japan on Monday for allowing a visit this week by an exiled Uighur activist whom Beijing blames for deadly ethnic riots in western China. The Chinese government "expresses strong dissatisfaction" with the Japanese government for allowing Rebiya Kadeer to visit Wednesday and Thursday despite Beijing's "repeated and serious representations," ministry spokesman Qin Gang said in a statement. China's worst ethnic violence in decades broke out this month in Urumqi, capital of the restive Xinjiang region, between ethnic minority Muslim Uighurs and the majority Han Chinese, leaving nearly 200 dead.

Blasts hit Tajikistan ahead of high-profile summit

DUSHANBE, Tajikistan (AP)—Two small explosions have hit the Tajik capital before a high-profile meeting between the leaders of Afghanistan, Pakistan and Russia, highlighting security concerns in the impoverished Central Asian nation. One explosion occurred Sunday outside a hotel just blocks away from the presidential palace in Dushanbe and another went off near the luggage storage at the airport, the Prosecutor General's office said Monday. Investigators, who said no one was injured in either attack, have declined to comment on who might have been behind them. However, Tajikistan has recently seen clashes between government troops and militants in areas near the Afghan border.

Lesbians in China petition to donate blood

BEIJING (AP)—Lesbians in China have organized an online petition calling for gay people to be allowed to donate blood, state media reported Tuesday. The petition, asking the government to remove a law enacted in 1998 banning the gay community from donating blood, has drawn 540 signatures from lesbians and aims to reach 1,000, the official China Daily reported. A vast majority of China's gay and lesbian population face discrimination and stigmatization, and most remain deeply closeted in a highly conservative society. Gay Web sites are often blocked by the government's Internet firewalls.

World

Israel on Iran: Anything it takes to stop nukes

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel hardened its insistence Monday that it would do anything it felt necessary to stop Iran from getting a nuclear bomb, just the ultimatum the United States hoped not to hear as it tried to nudge Iran to the bargaining table.

U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates reassured Israel that the new Obama administration was not naive about Iran's intentions, and that Washington would press for new, tougher sanctions against the Iranians if they balk. He didn't say what those might include.

Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak used a brief news conference with Gates to insist three times that Israel would not rule out any response—an implied warning that it would consider a pre-emptive strike to thwart Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons.

"We clearly believe that no option should be removed from the table," Barak said. "This is our policy. We mean it. We recommend to others to take the same position, but we cannot dictate it to anyone."

The question of how to deal with Iran's rapid nuclear advancement has



U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates, left, and his Israeli counterpart Ehud Barak hold a joint press conference at a Jerusalem hotel Monday, July 27, 2009. AP

become a notable public difference between the new administrations in Jerusalem and Washington, despite overall close relations. Israel considers itself the prime target of any eventual Iranian bomb.

Iran says it is merely trying to develop nuclear reactors for domestic power generation. Israeli leaders fear the U.S. prizes its outreach to Iran over its historic ties to Israel and appears resigned to the idea that Iran will soon be able to build a nuclear weapon.

Obama says he has accepted no such thing. Still, the United States argues that an Israeli attack against Iran would upset the fragile security balance in the Middle East, perhaps triggering a new nuclear arms race and leaving everyone, including Israel and Iran, worse off.

Gates emphasized areas of agreement with Israel, including that the offer of talks with Iran must not be open-ended.

Later, in neighboring Jordan, Gates was blunt in describing what Iran might expect if it refuses the offer of international arms control talks this year, or walks away from Obama's wider offer of better relations with Washington.

Supporters of ousted Honduran leader losing steam

LAS MANOS, Nicaragua (AP)—Ensnared in the mountains near Honduras, ousted President Manuel Zelaya struggled Monday to galvanize poor farmers, teachers and street activists into a movement strong enough to overcome his foes and sweep him back into office.

Military checkpoints kept all but a few hundred supporters from reaching the Nicaraguan town of Ocotal, where Zelaya parked his government-in-exile last week in a bid to keep up the pressure on Honduras' coup-installed leaders. Dozens of people camping behind the military

blockades inside Honduras gave up Monday and started trickling home.

Many of those who made it to Nicaragua wondered how long they could hold out, tired of sleeping on foam mattresses, forgoing showers and waiting for Zelaya to come up with a plan. Zelaya has vowed to remain on the border for at least a week, but hasn't announced any concrete strategy since he walked a few meters into Honduras and then retreated Friday.

The crowd, housed in two shelters in Ocotal, spent Monday in disarray. They boarded buses for a drive to the frontier

line, only to turn back when they realized Zelaya had no plans to join them. The ousted president showed up at one of the camps to address his supporters, only to find they had left for the border.

"We're waiting for Mel Zelaya to give the order, and we'll go with him," said Tomas Lopez, 57, an athletics teacher who traveled 375 miles (600 kilometers) to Nicaragua, leaving his family in Honduras. "I'm the head of the family, and they depend on me. We have food here and a place to sleep, but the problem is our children. Who is going to support them?"

Vessel carrying as many as 200 Haitians capsizes

PROVIDENCIALES, Turks and Caicos (AP)—A vessel carrying as many as 200 Haitian migrants capsized and sank near the Turks and Caicos Islands on Monday, the U.S. Coast Guard said. One survivor said the boat struck a reef as they tried to elude police.

About 70 passengers were stranded on a reef and four bodies were recovered, said Petty Officer Third Class Sabrina Elgammal, a Coast Guard spokeswoman in Miami. The rest of the passengers were missing and feared dead.

"Our main goal right now is just to get everybody out of the water and get medical attention for those who need it," Elgammal said.

The shipwreck happened around 2 p.m. Monday and by late evening Turks and Caicos authorities using small boats had rescued about 40 of the people stranded on the reef, located 2 miles (3 kilometers) southeast of West Caicos island. The Coast Guard and island authorities were evacuating the others, according to a Coast Guard statement.

The boat had been at sea for three days when passengers saw a police vessel and accidentally steered the boat onto a reef as they tried to hide, survivor Alces Julien told The Associated Press at a hospital where some of the rescued were receiving treatment.

Elgammal said information from survivors indicates that between 160 and 200 people were on board when the vessel capsized near this island chain southeast of the Bahamas. She said the cause of the accident is under investigation.

Nigeria police: 55 dead in Islamist attacks

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP)—Islamist militants seeking to impose a Taliban-style regime in northern Nigeria launched attacks Monday on police in three towns, expanding a two-day campaign of violence that has killed at least 55 people, police and witnesses said.

Trouble began Sunday when militants attacked a police station in the northern city of Bauchi, leaving dozens dead in gunbattles with police. On Monday, militants launched a wave of attacks in three more states, targeting the towns of Maiduguri, Damaturu, and Wudil in the predominantly Muslim North, police and residents said.

National police chief Ogbonaya Onovo put the overall toll at 55 dead at least—50 militants and five police officers.

A journalist for the local Compass newspaper in Maiduguri, Olugbenga Akinbule, said he saw the bodies of about 100 Islamist militants shot in gunbattles with police in the town, where some of the worst violence occurred. Authorities did not confirm that toll.

Nigeria has been sporadically wracked by sectarian clashes since 12 of the country's 36 states began adopt-

ing Islamic law, or Shariah, in the north in 1999.

The radical sect known as Al-Sunnaw al Jamma, or "Followers of Mohammed's Teachings" in Arabic, comprises mainly young Nigerians who want to create a Taliban-style state based on a strict interpretation of Shariah Law and the Quran. The group first came to prominence with a wave of similar assaults on New Year's Eve 2003. More attacks followed in late 2004, but little has been heard about the sect since.

Residents in the North also refer to the Islamists as "Boko Haram," which means "Western education is sin" in the local Hausa dialect. Onovo referred to the militants as Taliban, though the group has no known links to Taliban fighters in Afghanistan.

A local newspaper, *Daily Trust*, quoted the leader of the sect, Ustaz Mohammed Yusuf, as saying his followers are ready to die to ensure the institution of a strict Islamic society.

"Democracy and (the) current system of education must be changed, otherwise this war that is yet to start would continue for long," he said.

Onovo vowed that police would arrest the group's leaders.

WORLD BRIEFS

US Vice President Biden hits nerve in Russia

MOSCOW (AP)—An interview U.S. Vice President Joe Biden gave to an American newspaper was front-page news Monday in Moscow, where his characterization of Russia as a weakened nation hit a raw nerve. Biden said Russia's economic difficulties are likely to make the Kremlin more willing to cooperate with the United States on a range of national security issues. "I think we vastly underestimate the hand that we hold," he said in an interview to The Wall Street Journal published Saturday. Biden's comments appeared to catch the Kremlin by surprise, coming less

than three weeks after President Barack Obama said on a visit to Moscow that the U.S. wants to see a "strong, peaceful and prosperous Russia."

France's high-octane Sarkozy gets a wakeup call

PARIS (AP)—Nicolas Sarkozy's high-octane lifestyle just hit a speed bump. In a single week, the French leader dined with Egypt's president in Paris, popped down to the Alps to watch a leg of the Tour de France, jetted over to New York for a concert by his model-singer wife and still attended to the all-consuming business of governing a major European

nation. This weekend, however, Sarkozy collapsed while jogging in the summer heat—an episode that may prompt the intense, some would say hyperactive, French president to reconsider his schedule. Such a change would represent a major shift for the 54-year-old Sarkozy, who has made being seen on every front a hallmark of his two-year-old presidency.

Charles Taylor denies cannibalism accusations

AMSTERDAM (AP)—Former Liberian President Charles Taylor said Monday he was sickened by allegations at his war crimes trial that he ate human

flesh, calling testimony by a former aide the lies of an illiterate man. "I felt like throwing up when I heard that nonsense, and I think even the prosecution were shocked at listening to that foolishness," he told the Special Court for Sierra Leone in The Hague. Taylor, beginning his third week on the stand, said the stories of cannibalism by a former officer in his militia were "statements of lies, statements of deceit and deception."

Anglican Church may have 'two track' structure

LONDON (AP)—The worldwide Anglican Communion may have to accept a "two track" system in which churches

can hold different opinions about gay clergy and same-sex unions, the Archbishop of Canterbury said Monday in a bid to keep the church unified. Rowan Williams outlined his thoughts on the future of the deeply divided church body on his Web site in response to the recently completed General Convention of the Episcopal Church, the communion's U.S. branch. At the meeting, Episcopalians authorized bishops to bless same-sex unions and research an official prayer for the ceremonies. The church also voted to effectively drop a pledge that it would act with "restraint" when considering any more openly gay candidates for bishop.

Campus Life



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Health officials say the sight of children arriving at sleep-away camps with Tamiflu on their packing lists is likely just a harbinger of what awaits colleges and universities in coming weeks as students move into dormitories for the fall, and elementary and secondary schools begin classes.

By SEEMA MEHTA and
NICOLE SANTA CRUZ
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Flu outbreak threatens summer camps

LOS ANGELES—Hundreds of children have been sent home from summer camps across Southern California in recent weeks after exhibiting flu-like symptoms, and camp counselors and directors are taking extra precautions to prevent the spread of the H1N1, or swine flu, virus in cabins and mess halls.

But officials say the sight of children arriving at sleep-away camps with Tamiflu on their packing lists is likely just a harbinger of what awaits colleges and universities in coming weeks as students move into dormitories for the fall, and elementary and secondary schools begin classes.

Health officials predict a resurgence of the flu in the fall, and a vaccine is not expected to be available until long after the start of school. School districts and universities are on red alert, working with health officials to launch education campaigns, stockpile medical supplies, and discuss worst-case scenarios.

State education officials are developing contingency plans to provide lessons and meals for low-income children in case elementary and secondary schools close.

University of California campuses are stockpiling supplies, from paper masks and hand sanitizer to food and water. Officials are going over worst-case scenarios if there was a campus-wide outbreak. Officials may screen students for fever when they check into dorms.

"If we prepare for the worst, then we're going to get a better outcome," said Grace Crickette, chief risk officer for the University of California system.

For now, the scene at camps provides a good look at what schools may face.

Before children are allowed to board camp-bound buses, nurses check temperatures and medical histories to ensure they are flu-free. Visitors' days have been canceled at some camps, and make-shift infirmaries were created in dining halls and lawns. High fives and hand-holding are out, replaced by fist bumps and elbow-linking. Hand sanitizer is everywhere.

"We're all getting habitual with our Purell," said Jordanna Flores, executive

director of Camp Alonim in Los Angeles' Simi Valley.

Flu symptoms have been mild, but the virus is highly contagious, particularly when children are in close proximity.

Some organizations that cater to children with health issues, including the American Lung Association and the Muscular Dystrophy Association, canceled camps because of concerns about the virus.

"It's not worth the risk," said Bob

Mackle, a spokesman for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. "It was a heart-breaking decision for us, and it was a tough decision."

Most camps remain open, according to the American Camp Association. No organization has a complete list of outbreaks, but there have been anecdotal reports from across the country, notably in the northeast, which has a deep tradition of sleep-away camps.

The California Department of Public

Health has received reports of outbreaks at 16 camps in eight counties, though officials suspect the number is higher.

At Camp Ramah in the Ojai Valley, 80 campers and staff members were sent home with flu-like symptoms in the first session, many have returned. Twenty-nine eventually tested positive for the flu, said Rabbi Daniel Greyber, the camp director.

The 600 campers attending the second session, which began Thursday, were ad-

vised to pack Tamiflu.

"We hope it's a proactive thing that we can do to minimize the flu within the camp," Greyber said.

But for some children who fell ill, the situation was traumatic.

At Camp Alonim, health center coordinator Cindy Petrak said some campers wept when they learned they would have to leave their healthy friends and siblings for seven days to recover.

"It felt like Ellis Island," she said.

On a recent day, children lined up in an infirmary to have their temperatures taken. If they had fever, parents were called to pick them up. As many as 20 campers rested on a grassy lawn, sitting on white sheets with their luggage, waiting for their rides home.

Parents are trying to take the threat in stride.

"I think when kids are at camp, living in close quarters, there's always a chance -- if one kid gets sick, all the kids get sick," said Mara Sperling, whose 12-year-old daughter, Ella, left last week for Gindling Hilltop Camp, which is set on a coastal ridge in Malibu. "It's one of the hazards of going to sleep-away camp."

Susan Freudenheim's 14-year-old daughter, Rachel Core, is attending Camp Alonim where Tamiflu will be given to the entire bunk, with parents permission, if two children become sick.

She declined because she fears there could be a Tamiflu shortage or that unnecessary medication could lead to the development of a drug-resistant strain of the virus—a position that mirrors that of health officials including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention which is advising against giving the drug to healthy people.

Freudenheim, who is the managing editor of The Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles and a former Los Angeles Times editor, is hopeful that her daughter stays healthy.

"It would be a disaster if she came home," she said. "She'd have nothing to do, be sick alone at home, and I'm working full-time."

But in the end, camp leaders and educators say the spread of the virus comes down to education and responsibility.

"Wash your hands, wash your hands, wash your hands," said Crickette.

HARD TIMES: School budgets dip, class sizes grow

WASHINGTON (AP)—Like a seesaw on the school playground, falling state budgets are pushing class sizes higher.

The recession is forcing districts to lay off teachers even as the economic stimulus pumps billions of dollars into schools. As a result, classrooms across the country will be more crowded when school starts in the fall.

Patti Hathorn, a fifth-grade teacher in rural Pinson, Ala., is expecting 29 or 30 students, making it the biggest class she's taught. Many of her students at Kermit Johnson Elementary are learning English or are in special education.

"You may have a child that needs you, that needs that adult figure, to spend the extra five minutes with them. If you have five or six extra kids, that five minutes is gone," Hathorn said.

It's the same story in small communities such as Pinson and Wapakoneta, Ohio, and urban areas including Los Angeles and Broward County, Fla. In many places, classes will have well over 30 kids.

There is no official data on class sizes for the upcoming year; many states and districts have not finalized their budgets. A survey this year by the American Association of School Administrators found that 44 percent of school districts expected to increase class size.

Educators and parents worry the large-

er classes will keep kids from learning.

"The issue is how this affects kids and what price this generation is going to have to pay," said John White, principal of Mulholland Middle School in Los Angeles, where the district has laid off more than 2,000 teachers.

Classes in Los Angeles are expected to grow by two kids in fourth through 12th grades. Middle school classes will have 35 kids on average; juniors and seniors will have about 43 kids in each class. Kindergarten through third-grade classes will rise by four kids to 24.

Very large classes can keep teachers from teaching because their time is spent keeping order. Crowded classrooms also increase the chance that struggling students may fall through the cracks.

"I certainly won't say there's a magic number because it depends on the nature of the student group," said Jeremy Finn, education professor at University at Buffalo-SUNY. "But in the elementary grades especially, there's a certain point at which teachers can't do what they were trained to do."

Just as there's a downside to bigger classes, there's an upside to smaller ones, he said.

Research has shown that younger children, those in kindergarten through third grade, perform and behave better in smaller classes. Benefits are strongest for minority and poor children,

Finn said.

There is evidence that being in small classes early on improves a student's chance of graduating from high school or taking the SAT or ACT college entrance exams.

Most often cited is a large-scale, four-year study of smaller class sizes in Tennessee in the 1980s. The study found that by eighth grade, children who had had smaller classes in kindergarten through third grade had substantial advantages in all subjects over their peers who had been in larger classes.

Others dispute the importance of smaller classes; the debate is far from settled.

Researcher Eric Hanushek called it "kind of silly" that advocates still rely on 20-year-old data from Tennessee. He pointed to other studies that showed small to negligible benefits for kids in small classes.

"All the research suggests the number of kids is much less important than who is teaching the class," said Hanushek, a senior fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution. "In the face of budget problems, allowing class size to move a little bit makes all the sense in the world."

"In fact, to the extent you put ineffective teachers into classrooms, you're much better off by keeping larger classes with effective teachers," he said.

Life & Style

Famed choreographer Merce Cunningham dies at 90

NEW YORK (AP)—Choreographer and dancer Merce Cunningham was hailed Monday as a revolutionary artist who remade the very definition of dance.

Cunningham—who was still working as he marked his 90th birthday just 3 1/2 months ago—died on Sunday at his Manhattan home, said Leah Sandals, spokeswoman for the Merce Cunningham Dance Company. She said he died of natural causes but declined to elaborate.

The onetime Martha Graham dancer was credited with remaking modern dance by creating works of pure movement divorced from storytelling and even from musical accompaniment.

"I'd rather find out something than repeat what I know," he once said. "I prefer adventure to something that's fixed."

In a career that spanned more than 60 years, Cunningham determined steps by chance—saying it freed his imagination—and shattered unwritten rules such as the need for dancers to face the audience and keep time with the music.

Reacting to his death, the great New York City Ballet dancer Jacques d'Amboise said Monday that Cunningham "made everybody rethink what is dance: Is it just movement to time? Does it have to be synchronized? Can it be improvised? Can it be spontaneous? He played with all these ideas."

Dancer Judith Jamison called him "a true giant and groundbreaker ... (who) shifted dancer's horizons and audience perceptions throughout the world."

Cunningham worked closely with composer John Cage, his longtime partner who died in 1992, and with visual artists such as Robert Rauschenberg and Jasper Johns. But, he said, "I am and always have been fascinated by dancing, and I can just as well do a dance without the visual thing."

Other choreographers have made plotless dances but Cunningham did his even without music. The audience got both dance and music, but the steps weren't done to the music's beat, and

sometimes the dancers were hearing the music for the first time on stage.

While Cunningham used chance—tossing pennies or whatever—during the creative process, his dancers had to follow the finished work precisely.

His dances may have been nontraditional, but the intricate choreography wasn't easy to do, and his dancers were all highly trained. Cunningham himself continued to dance with his company well into his 70s.

Among his creations—more than 150 in all: "Sounddance," 1975; "RainForest," 1968; "Septet," 1953; "Exchange," 1978; "Trackers," 1991; "Pictures," 1984; "Fabrications," 1987; "Cargo X," 1989; and "Biped," 1999.

"Merce saw beauty in the ordinary, which is what made him extraordinary," said Trevor Carlson, executive director of the Cunningham Dance Foundation. "He did not allow convention to lead him, but was a true artist, honest and forthcoming in everything he did."

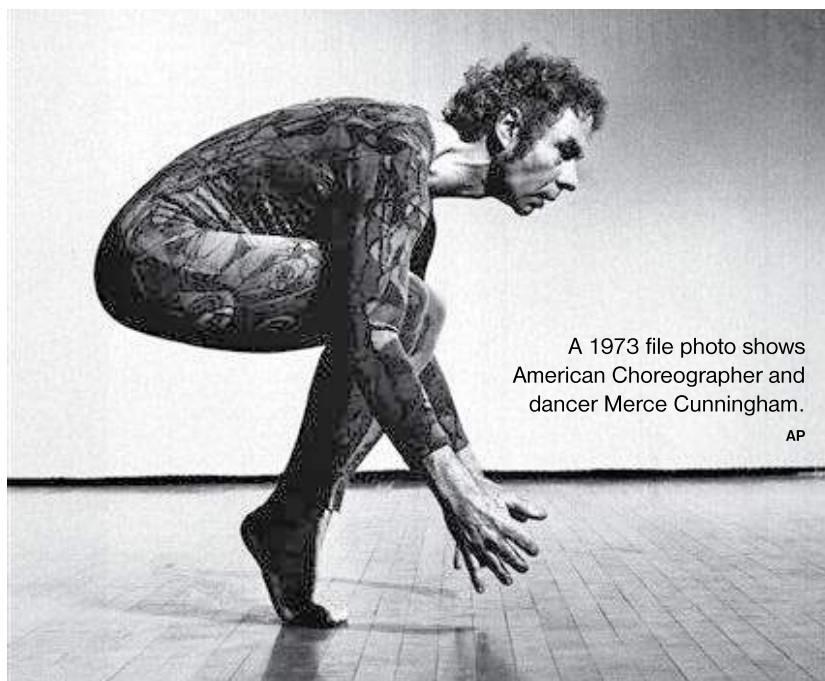
Though he had to use a wheelchair in later years, he premiered a long piece called "Nearly Ninety" as he reached that age milestone in April. It was set to new music from Led Zeppelin's John Paul Jones, the rock band Sonic Youth, and Japanese composer Takehisa Kosugi.

He also had recently set up a new organization, the Merce Cunningham Trust, and planned that his dance company would have a final, two-year tour and then shut down. Meanwhile, the Cunningham Trust would preserve his choreography for future artists, scholars and audiences.

"My idea has always been to explore human physical movement," Cunningham said in June. "I would like the Trust to continue doing this, because dancing is a process that never stops, and should not stop if it is to stay alive and fresh."

Among the honors that came his way over a long career were the Kennedy Center Honors, 1985, and the National Medal of Arts, 1990.

"I think the things in my earlier



A 1973 file photo shows American choreographer and dancer Merce Cunningham. AP

work that were shocking, like shifting abruptly, no longer are shocking," he said in 1986.

Said The New York Times: "Cunningham has altered the audience's very perception of what constitutes a dance performance and explored previously inconceivable methods of putting movement together."

Such works, combined with far-out music, could be tough going for audiences used to more traditional dances.

A critic for Britain's Financial Times, after watching the premiere of Cunningham's "Ocean" in Brussels in 1994, wrote: "How slowly time passes when the avant-garde is having fun." But Time magazine said, "The public and dance critics alike were seduced by 'Ocean's' magical marine universe."

The 90-minute work featured 15 dancers performing on a round stage, with the audience seated around them. Cunningham used a computer—he was a pioneer in its use in choreography—to keep track of how the work would look from many different angles.

"I told the dancers, 'You have to put

yourself on a merry-go-round and keep turning round and round because no single moment is fixed in any particular direction,'" he said.

He said there is always something new to do in choreography, "if your eyes and ears are open and you have wit enough to see and hear and imagine."

In 2003, Cunningham's company wound up its 50th anniversary season with the world premiere of "Split Sides" at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. In classic Cunningham fashion, the order of the music and other elements of the performance was determined by rolling the dice.

"In coming to a new piece, I still try to find ways to use chance," he told The Associated Press in 1986. "It is to try to open my eyes to something I don't know about rather than me simply repeating something that I already have dealt with."

The acclaimed choreographer Paul Taylor made his dance debut with Cunningham's company in the 1950s before becoming a star with Graham and founding his own troupe.

In his 1987 memoir, "Private Domain," Taylor recalled how Cunningham's style was challenging to learn, with intricate footwork and "coordinations that were tricky in the way that simultaneous head patting and stomach rubbing is. ... Although genial and gentlemanly, it was easy to see that (Cunningham) was a private person."

Merce (pronounced Murss) Cunningham was born in Centralia, Wash., the son of a lawyer. He studied tap and ballroom dancing as a child, then attended the Cornish School, an arts school, in Seattle after high school.

In a 1999 Public Broadcasting Service interview, he recalled that he wanted to be an actor and took dance just to help him act better.

The school director was making out his schedule, and "she said, 'Well, of course, you will do the modern dance.' And I didn't know one from the other. So I said, 'All right.' ... It's chance. And in the end, I think for me it was very good chance."

He met Cage in 1938, and the composer became his longtime companion as well as frequent collaborator.

The following year, he met Graham at a summer dance session at Mills College. She invited him to join her company, and created many leading roles for him.

He recalled his time with Graham in a 1996 interview with the Seattle Post-Intelligencer: "She was beautiful to see. Her presence in the theater was so incredible. ... She wasn't just playing to the audience but to other people on stage. She was powerful."

He recalled it wasn't easy supporting himself as a beginning dancer in New York, but "somehow you managed. You just did it because you wanted to do it. You were doing something that interested you."

He left the company in 1945 to begin his turn from psychological dances toward "pure movement."

The Cunningham foundation said funeral arrangements were incomplete.

Trial set to begin in Mass. music downloading case

BOSTON (AP)—A jury is to begin hearing arguments in a music downloading lawsuit filed by the recording industry against a Boston University graduate student.

The industry accuses Joel Tenenbaum, of Providence, R.I., of downloading songs and making music files available for distribution on the Kazaa file-sharing network.

Lawyers finished picking a jury Monday afternoon in federal court in Boston. Opening statements are expected Tuesday. Tenenbaum's case is the second such case to go to trial.

Last month, a federal jury in Minneapolis ruled that a Minnesota woman must pay \$1.92 million for willful infringement of the recording industry's copyrights by posting music on Kazaa.

The industry has threatened about 35,000 people with charges of copyright infringement over the past five years, typically offering to settle for \$3,000 to \$5,000.

'Girls Gone Wild' lawyer: NV bribe claim bogus

RENO, Nev. (AP)—Federal prosecutors brought trumped up charges against a Hollywood associate of "Girls Gone Wild" creator Joe Francis, two ex-sheriff's deputies and a jail worker to pressure them to implicate Francis in an alleged bribery scandal, a lawyer said.

Attorney David Houston said Francis, his client, was targeted by the FBI after Washoe County Sheriff Mike Haley told federal agents that his internal probe turned up allegations of misconduct at the end of 2007.

Francis was awaiting trial for nearly a year on U.S. tax evasion charges in Reno in 2007.

Prosecutors accuse Francis associate Aaron Weinstein, a video and marketing executive, of bribing the law enforcement officials, including former deputy Michon Mills, with money and gifts that included a Cartier watch and Oakland Raiders tickets in exchange for preferential treatment for Francis.

"The indictment of both Aaron Weinstein and Michon Mills, in my opinion, is simply based on the government's attempts to pressure people into making false statements to possibly implicate Mr. Francis in something he has not done and neither have any of the people charged," Houston told The Associated Press.

Greg Brower, U.S. attorney for Nevada, said Sunday "we're going to let the facts come to light as the case moves through the system."

Haley referred all inquiries to the FBI and U.S. attorney. He said his department began an internal investigation in November 2007.

Francis has not been charged in the scheme disclosed Friday in a grand jury indictment of Weinstein and the 39-year-old Mills of Carson City.

Francis first drew the legal wrath of authorities in Panama City, Fla., in 2003 when his crews filmed underage girls baring their breasts and in other sexually provocative poses during

spring break. He's awaiting trial on the tax charges in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles.

Weinstein, 45, of Woodland Hills, Calif., is listed as an executive producer on some of the soft porn mogul's projects. He's charged with three counts of trying to bribe a public official. Mills and two others are accused of accepting bribes. One ex-deputy has pleaded guilty to the charge.

The indictment accuses Weinstein of giving Mills the watch valued at \$4,500 and a \$5,000 Saks Fifth Avenue department store gift card. It said that in return, she helped provide special benefits for Francis, including making sure he had "almost unrestrained access to telephones."

Houston said Mills did not receive a gift card. He said Weinstein gave Mills the watch during a November 2007 dinner in Reno at a time Mills no longer was overseeing Francis at the jail.

It was presented as a Christmas

gift—"in a plastic box in a 7-Eleven bag"—which she opened ahead of time and returned to Weinstein when she learned its value, Houston said.

"She did not feel that she and Alan Weinstein enjoyed the kind of relationship where the watch would be an appropriate gift," he said.

Houston is not representing Weinstein or Mills but said he had consulted with them about the allegations. He said they have not yet obtained legal counsel.

Because of his notoriety, Francis was housed mostly in a "special needs unit" where mental health subjects and others are segregated from the general inmate population, Houston said.

"There are no restrictions on use of the phone for any of those inmates," he said. "Anything and everything that happened with Joe Francis in that jail was checked up and down the chain of command by everyone in control, from captains to ... the sheriff."

Judge orders guardian for octuplets' finances

ORANGE, Calif. (AP)—A California judge appointed a lawyer Monday to oversee the estate of Nadya Suleman's octuplets, saying he wanted to ensure they weren't exploited by reality television shows, tabloid photo spreads or other paid ventures.

Orange County Superior Court Judge Gerald Johnston dismissed arguments for family privacy and ruled Monday that an independent party should be appointed to scrutinize the finances of Suleman's octuplets.

The petition was filed on behalf of Paul Peterson, a former Disney Mouseketeer who is an advocate for the fair treatment of children in entertainment.

During a brief hearing, Arthur J. LaCiento, a lawyer for Suleman, called for the petition to be dismissed based on the family's needs for privacy.

Johnston denied the request for dismissal and said a guardian ad litem was the "least intrusive" type of oversight possible.

"I do believe it is appropriate and justifiable at this time to provide an objective voice to report to the court," said Johnston.

During his arguments, LaCiento also said the lawyers who brought the petition—Gloria Allred and co-counsel John Deily—were "nosy" and "grandstanding."

"We're only here because we're concerned about securing the financial security of these octuplets," Allred said.

Suleman appeared in court wearing a light suit, her hair pulled back in a bun, and didn't speak during the hearing.

Labor abuses have been at issue with the octuplets in recent months. Four citations were brought against Web site RadarOnline by state regulators for the video taping of the first two octuplets to go home from the hospital on March 17.

The Labor Commissioner said RadarOnline's secret deal to chronicle the mother of 14 and her newest babies over a seven-week period failed to get the required state permits and taped the infants too late at night and for too long.

It's unknown exactly how much Suleman has amassed through her dealings. RadarOn-



Nadya Suleman arrives at the City of Orange Court house on Monday July 27, 2009.

line has posted more than 100 items about her and her brood, some of them diary-style videos of Suleman. Photo spreads in tabloids show her cradling her babies in softly lit images—the same types of spreads known to earn movie stars millions. An unknown sum of donations has been collected for the care of her children.

In March, Suleman moved into a new home that listed for nearly \$500,000.

Suleman has said that she's lived off student loans, her children's disability payments and, before December, disability checks she received for a 1999 back injury sustained while working in a state mental hospital.

A reality show is slated to start filming Suleman and her 14 children, all under age 8, on Sept. 1. The children's reality television contracts were filed in Los Angeles Superior Court on Friday, and await a judge's approval.

Collectively, the children stand to earn nearly \$250,000 over a three year period of filming in the contract with European produc-

tion company Eyeworks.

Deily noted that Suleman herself has a contract, but it is not a matter of public record and "there's no discussion" of how much she will earn. Deily said a guardian ad litem was necessary to advocate for fairness on behalf of the octuplets.

The company has helmed other reality shows, including "The Biggest Loser" and "Breaking Bonaduce."

A call to the Los Angeles area office of Eyeworks was not returned Monday.

Santa Ana lawyer Norbert Bunt was appointed guardian ad litem, and is scheduled to appear at the court's next hearing, Aug. 31.

Suleman gave birth to the world's longest-surviving set of octuplets on Jan. 26. The medical curiosity of their delivery turned to public outrage when it was learned that the single, unemployed mother had been caring for her six other children with the help of student loans and Social Security disability payments for three of the youngsters.

Silverman leaving NBC to head multimedia venture

NEW YORK (AP)—Ben Silverman has left NBC after two years as entertainment chief of the hit-starved network and is heading back to the content-producing role where he once found success.

He is starting a new company with an initial investment from media mogul Barry Diller's IAC/InterActiveCorp, and already has a consultancy deal in place with NBC.

NBC had hoped Silverman could bring the magic touch he had with his Reveille production studio to turn around the fourth-place network. Silverman had specialized in remaking overseas TV shows for American audiences, and was the force behind NBC's "The Office" and "The Biggest Loser," and ABC's "Ugly Betty."

Yet in two years marred by a writers' strike and a cratering economy, Silverman wasn't a game-changer at NBC. His legacy is likely to be more about striking deals with advertisers than improving NBC's competitive position. Only the Amy Poehler midseason comedy "Parks & Recreation" and the drama "Southland" bear his stamp, and neither can be considered hits.

Flops included the biblical drama "Kings" and the comedy "Kath & Kim."

"To me, the shining example of someone's track record is the track record of the programming they shepherded," Shari Ann Brill, analyst for the ad agency Carat USA, said.

Silverman took over at the end of the 2006-07 television season, when NBC averaged 8.9 million viewers in prime-time. Its average was 7.9 million this season, according to Nielsen Media Research. While not budging from fourth place, NBC did manage to hold steady this season among

18-to-49-year-old viewers, which is the demographic it seeks, and is having a strong summer.

Asked if Silverman should be considered a failure as NBC entertainment chief, NBC Universal President and CEO Jeff Zucker said, "not at all."

He said Silverman's strength in the job was challenging the status quo at a time the business is rapidly changing. While Zucker said it's true that NBC would like to have

networks such as USA, Bravo, SyFy and Oxygen. Now he's adding NBC.

Silverman ran NBC entertainment and the company's television studio with Marc Graboff. Graboff now has that job alone. NBC had reshuffled the top two programming executives under those men late last year to add Angela Bromstad and Paul Telegdy; Gaspin said no further changes were planned.

Silverman did provide some colorful copy during his tenure, particularly while feuding with ABC entertainment chief Steve McPherson. Silverman called McPherson "a moron" and McPherson said Silverman was either "clueless or stupid."

Silverman said his new company will help develop content across several mediums, "from Twitter to television."

"My career has been leading up to this moment," he said Monday.

He will seek to bring advertisers further into the development process than has been common in TV, something he sought to do at NBC. Ford, for example, was a force behind NBC's failed "Knight Rider" series. At Silverman's urging, NBC moved away from its traditional springtime schedule unveiling before a large industry audience to emphasize smaller meetings with advertisers.

Under Silverman, NBC also consolidated operation of the network and its production studio.

"Ben allowed NBC to make some structural changes that were really important that other executives might have dug their heels on," Gaspin said. "I applaud Ben for what he did. We all wish NBC had more hits. Frankly, two years is a short amount of time with a strike in the middle to expect that."

Silverman's NBC record is still open, given this fall's experiment with a prime-time Jay Leno hour five nights a week. "Whether successful or not, it is a seminal shift," said John Rash, analyst for the ad agency Campbell Mithune.

General Electric Co. has 80 percent ownership of NBC Universal, with French media and telecommunications company Vivendi SA controlling 20 percent.



In this May 12, 2009 file photo, Ben Silverman, co-chairman of NBC Entertainment and Universal Movie Studios, poses for a portrait at Universal Studios Hollywood in Universal City, Calif.

more successful programs, Silverman has been responsible for "a lot of successes that are not measured in ratings."

Zucker said Silverman had approached him about the opportunity and that he agreed it made sense.

The parent NBC Universal is elevating executive Jeff Gaspin to the role of chairman of NBC Universal television entertainment. Gaspin had previously overseen the company's stable of entertainment cable

SAG leaders vote to oppose Hollywood hospital closure

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Leaders of the Screen Actors Guild voted to declare its opposition to the planned closure of an historic motion picture home where many well-known actors have spent their last days.

SAG's national board voted by a 3.5-percent margin on Saturday to oppose the closure of the Motion Picture & Television Fund's long-term care facility and hospital in Los Angeles' Woodland Hills neighborhood.

SAG has no role in administering the home—that's the fund's job—and no official say in its future but many of its members financially support the home through fund contributions. The vote from the divided 69-member board, plus two officers, served to highlight the controversy swirling around the issue.

Actors such as Mary Astor, Norma Shearer, "Gone With the Wind" Oscar-winner Hattie McDaniel and "Tarzan" star Johnny Weismuller once lived at the home, which opened in 1948.

The fund announced in January that it planned to close the home this year to save on overhead costs because the facility was running a \$10-million deficit that could eventually bankrupt the fund. Payments from the state's Medi-Cal program weren't keeping pace with expenses, the fund said.

That outraged some actors who felt it would destroy a legacy. Critics also include some of the 300 hospital workers who would lose their jobs and relatives of those staying at the

home—who argue that fragile patients might not survive being moved to other facilities.

About 200 people picketed the fund's headquarters earlier this year, and opponents created a group called "Saving the Lives of Our Own" that vigorously challenges the fund's contention that it can't afford to maintain the facility.

The SAG board vote followed presentations by both the motion picture fund and opponents of closing the home.

"Our board voted to oppose the closing and did so to try and preserve the legacy of the Motion Picture & Television Fund's Long Term Care historic commitment, in honor of the screen actors who founded it," SAG National President Alan Rosenberg said in a statement.

The vote was disappointing, the fund said in a Sunday statement.

The long-term facility is losing nearly \$1 million a month and if the fund doesn't transfer its 84 residents to other nursing homes, "the fund will go bankrupt within five years," said Frank Mancuso, the board's chairman and the former chairman of Paramount Pictures and MGM.

"We cannot and will not compromise the best interests of SAG's membership and the rest of the 60,000 people we serve every year by keeping it open," he said in the statement.

The closures won't affect the 185 residents of independent and assisted-living facilities and the fund's six area health centers that serve 60,000 industry workers.

AP source: Jackson doc gave him drug before death

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael Jackson's personal doctor administered a powerful anesthetic to help him sleep, and authorities believe the drug is what killed the pop singer, a law enforcement official told The Associated Press on Monday.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation is ongoing, said Jackson regularly received propofol to sleep, a practice far outside the drug's intended purpose. On June 25, the day Jackson died, Dr. Conrad Murray gave him the drug sometime after midnight, the official said.

Though toxicology reports are pending, investigators are working under the theory that propofol caused Jackson's heart to stop, the official said.

Murray, 51, has been identified in court papers as the subject of a manslaughter investigation and authorities last week



AP
In this July 7, 2006 file photo, Dr. Conrad Murray poses for a photo as he opens the Acres Homes Cardiovascular Center at the Tidwell Professional Building, in Houston.

raided his office and a storage unit in Houston. Police say

Murray is cooperating and have not labeled him a suspect.

Murray's lawyer, Edward Chernoff, has said the doctor "didn't prescribe or administer anything that should have killed Michael Jackson." When asked Monday about the law enforcement official's statements he said: "We will not be commenting on rumors, innuendo or unnamed sources."

Murray became Jackson's personal physician in May and was to accompany him to London for a series of concerts starting in July. He was staying with Jackson in a rented Los Angeles mansion and, according to Chernoff, found an unconscious Jackson in the pop star's bedroom the morning of June 25. Murray attempted to revive him but could not.

Police searching Jackson's home after his death found propofol and other drugs, an IV

line and three tanks of oxygen in Jackson's bedroom, and 15 more oxygen tanks in a security guard's shack.

Propofol can depress breathing and lower heart rates and blood pressure. Because of the risks, propofol is only supposed to be administered in hospitals. Instructions on the drug's package warn that patients must be continuously monitored, and that equipment to maintain breathing, to provide artificial ventilation, and to administer oxygen if needed "must be immediately available."

Jackson had trouble sleeping and the official said he enlisted various doctors to administer propofol, relying on the drug like an alarm clock. He would decide what time he wanted to awaken and at the appointed hour a doctor would stop the intravenous drip that delivered the drug, the official said.

Sister's generosity is tainted by way she earns her living

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: Two years ago my younger sister, "Cilla," generously set up college funds for my three children. Each of the accounts has more than \$25,000. My husband and I were stunned, but Cilla insisted she is making good money in the film industry and wanted to do this for my family.

Three months ago, she came to visit, and through a bizarre turn of events, I discovered that she makes her living starring in adult films. Now that I know how Cilla earns her living, I am no longer comfortable accepting her gifts -- especially the college funds for the children.

This has caused problems between my husband and me. He thinks we should keep the money because we may not be able to afford three college tuitions on our own. Abby, I don't want my sister's sexual exploits paying for our kids' education.

Should we return the money? And if we do, is it possible to do it without causing a rift between my sister and me?

G-RATED SISTER IN SAN DIEGO



Dear Abby

DEAR SISTER: I doubt it. If you refuse her generosity, it will appear that you are rejecting her. Nor do I think your children should be penalized because you don't approve of Cilla's lifestyle. Your husband is being pragmatic; you are being emotional. That money has already been earned. You're not going to change your sister. You may not approve, but love her for the generous and caring aunt she is trying to be and let the money be used for something positive.

DEAR ABBY: My letter to you is the first time I have shared my problem with anyone. When I met and married my husband of 30 years, we each had been divorced for more than 10 years. He had adult children with families of their own; I had none.

For several years I acknowledged their special occasions with cards and small gifts, never receiving any notice or thank you unless I had my husband ask if they had been received. I finally stopped.

Although they always celebrate their father's special days, I have yet to be remembered on mine. They send any special news or pictures addressed only to my husband.

I recognize I cannot change the situation, but my question is how do I manage my growing resentment toward not only his family but my husband as well? As you can guess, we are elderly. I don't want to spend my last years feeling this bitterness.

WANTS PEACE OF MIND

DEAR WANTS: Obviously your husband's children never really accepted you as part of their father's life -- and he didn't rock the boat. It's a shame that you waited 30 years to say what's on your mind. If you hadn't, your husband might have stood up and insisted that "the kids" show you some respect and courtesy.

Bitterness is a waste of time. If your marriage has been a happy one, dwell on that instead of nursing resentment.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have tried four times to have a baby. Because fertility medications cost around \$5,000 here in Canada, we have depleted all of our savings and down payment for a home.

We are contemplating holding a fundraiser to offset the costs for a fifth try. Your thoughts, please.

CONTEMPLATING IN CANADA

DEAR CONTEMPLATING: My heart goes out to you, but my gut reaction is negative. If you needed donations for treatment for a life-threatening condition, I might feel differently. I encourage you to explore other options available to you—including adoption.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Madonna's love letters, erotic tapes in NY auction

NEW YORK (AP)—Madonna's love letters and erotic answering machine messages to an ex-boyfriend are up for sale in New York City.

The Material Girl's material is among nearly 500 per-

sonal celebrity items including Jimi Hendrix's \$1 performance contract and Muhammad Ali's training robe being offered in an online auction ending Aug. 5.

The Gotta Have It! auction house says the 1965 contract be-

tween Hendrix and PPX Enterprises is believed to be his first.

Ali trained in the terry cloth robe for his third fight against Ken Norton in 1976 at Yankee Stadium. Ali won.

Madonna faxed love letters

to her then-boyfriend Jim Albright and left naughty messages on his answering machine in the early 1990s. The messages are on two micro-cassette tapes estimated to sell for up to \$40,000.

Publicist: Mischa Barton 'out of the hospital'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Mischa (MEE'-shah) Barton is out of the hospital and plans a return to work almost two weeks after Los Angeles police say they escorted her for an undisclosed medical problem.

Spokesman Craig Schneider said Monday that the 23-year-

old actress is "out of the hospital and continuing to improve in anticipation of resuming production as planned."

He would not elaborate on Barton's condition, but said Monday that Barton planned to report to work on the new CW series "The Beautiful Life." A

CW spokesman for the show, which stars Barton as a pill-popping supermodel, said last week that production was scheduled to begin Friday.

Police say they removed Barton from her home July 15. Department officials won't say what the problem was.

NJ man charged in 'American Idol' contestant death



TOMS RIVER, N.J. (AP)—A man has been charged with drunken driving following a New Jersey shore car accident that killed an "American Idol" contestant whose angry rejection rant became an Internet sensation.

Daniel Bark appeared Monday in state Superior Court on charges of reckless driving and leaving the scene of an accident. Prosecutors say the charges have been upgraded to aggravated manslaughter and drunken driving.

Defense attorney David Glassman says Bark and his family are distraught over the death of former "Idol" singer Alexis Cohen.

Cohen was struck by a vehicle Saturday in the tiny shore town Seaside Heights. The 24-year-old Allentown, Pa., resident is best known for the Internet viral video of her tirade after being rejected by judges during the top-rated Fox show's seventh season.

In this undated image released by FOX, "American Idol" contestant Alexis Cohen, 23, of Allentown, Pa., performs in front of the judges during tryouts for the program's seventh season in Philadelphia.

AP

Longoria Parker, George Lopez to host ALMA Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Eva Longoria Parker and George Lopez will host September's ALMA Awards celebrating Latino achievement in entertainment.

For the first time, the ALMA Awards will air during National Hispanic Heritage Month. The ceremony honoring those who work in film, TV and radio also will feature new categories, including one for emerging young talent and a sports award.

"Desperate Housewives" star Longoria Parker is one of the ceremony's executive producers as well as co-host.

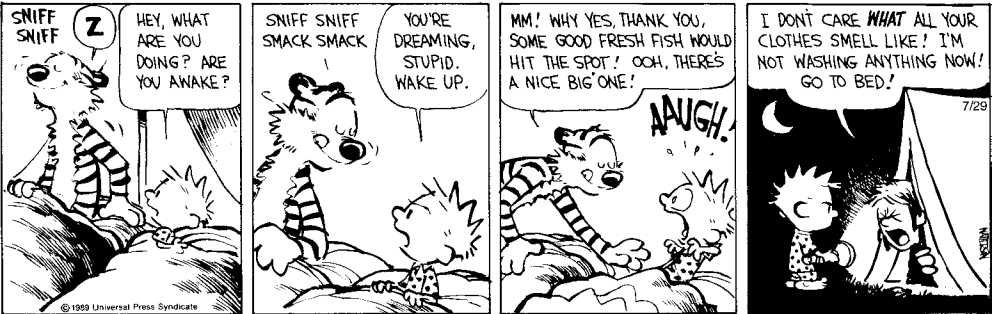
"The ALMA Awards is a special show because it represents the determined spirit and soul of the Latino people, and I cannot think of a better person to help celebrate and co-host with me than my good friend George Lopez," Longoria Parker said in a statement Monday.

The American Latino Media Arts Awards were created in 1995 by the National Council of La Raza, a national Latino civil rights and advocacy organization, as part of its effort to promote diverse and fair portrayals of Latinos in the media. The awards ceremony will air Sept. 18 on ABC.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

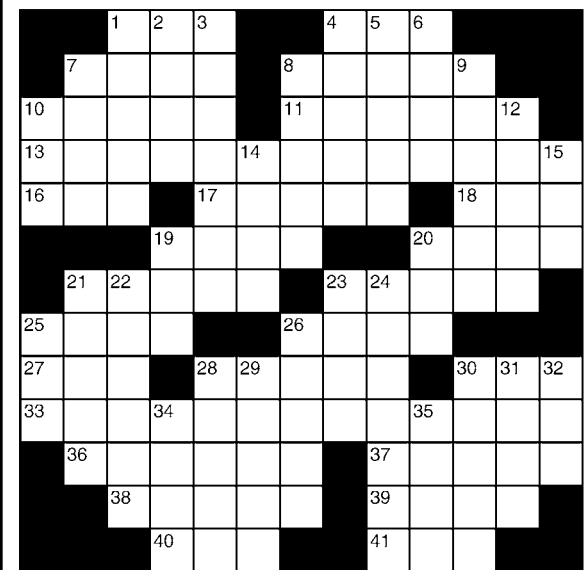
By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 26 De-bag the cat? 27 Perch 28 Baby's ailment 30 Commotion 33 Tina Turner hit 36 Injure 37 Doha's country 38 Knock - 39 Fairy tale preposition 40 Screw up 41 Always, in verse

DOWN 1 West Point freshman 2 "My Name Is -" 3 It's nothing new 4 Stares 5 Lifeless, old-style 6 TV mogul Griffin 7 Fingerprint, often 8 "Star Wars" weapon 9 Hole-shaping tool 10 Suitable 12 Beezer 14 It gets in the whey 15 Heavy weight 19 Underwear with 20 Science workshop 21 Dens 22 Increase 23 Lost traction 24 Rhesus monkey 25 1/6 fl. oz. 26 Run, as colors 28 Supply the food 29 Different 30 Thespian 31 Campus bigwig 32 Bobby of hockey 34 Barn-roof attachment 35 Scruff

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer 7-29



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Wil Wheaton, 37; Martina McBride, 43; Geddy Lee, 56; Elizabeth Dole, 73

Happy Birthday: Be ready for the unexpected. Someone or something is likely to stand in your way or slow down your progress. You have to call the shots if you want things to turn out the way you planned. An emotional issue may lead to a new family responsibility. Ongoing challenges will prove your capabilities and shouldn't be viewed as negative. Your numbers are 6, 8, 19, 26, 34, 38, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You may have to move things around to cover your costs. A new friendship will prove beneficial in more ways than one. Making changes to your lifestyle will pay off monetarily. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't let someone's insensitivity get the better of you. Refuse to make a decision until you have all the facts and feel confident you are making the right choice. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take a deep breath before you lose patience and do something you'll regret. Someone you hook up with will have plenty to contribute but, if you think you are being upstaged, you may react poorly. Avoid uncertainty. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Determination coupled with desire will give you a competitive edge, so don't hesitate to participate. Romance is in the stars and can lead to an intimate encounter late in the day if you play your cards right. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): It will be hard to stifle your emotions, let alone stay out of trouble. Personal issues will lead you into battle if you aren't careful. You may be able to win the fight but the way you feel afterwards won't be satisfying. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Expect someone around you to shake things up and cause you to think about how best to protect your interests. Uncertainty regarding a contract, legal or financial matter may leave you in limbo. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't get involved in something that will cost you time, money or your position. Say no to anyone who wants to take advantage of you or your skills. A promise will be broken if you don't get it in writing. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Deal with your own responsibilities first. Someone is likely to make you feel vulnerable by bringing up a subject you aren't ready to discuss. Being misinformed will lead to a poor assumption on your part. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You can stand up for your beliefs and your rights but, if you are too stubborn to compromise, you can expect your adversary to walk away. Consider what you have to do to ensure that your future is secure and implement the necessary change. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't be fooled by copycats. If you look for the real deal, you will find it at the best price. Voice your ideas and offer your

EUGENIA LAST THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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experience and you will make a good impression. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Be honest about what you did and didn't contribute or you may be questioned or put in an awkward position. Surround yourself with positive people who have similar interests. Educational pursuits will give you greater skills and confidence. **

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You may feel like taking a risk but there will be underlying facts leading to loss. An emotional matter will cost you if you haven't been upfront or fair with past dealings. The way you handle others will determine what you will get in return. *****

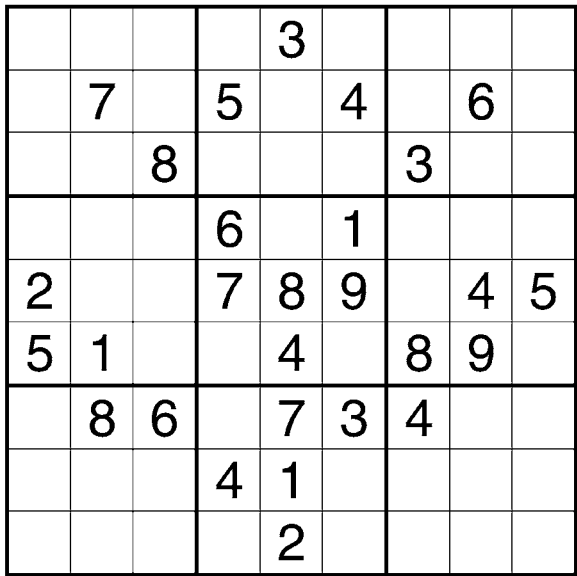
Birthday Baby: You are curious, capable and always in pursuit of knowledge. You are direct and persistent in accomplishing your goals.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



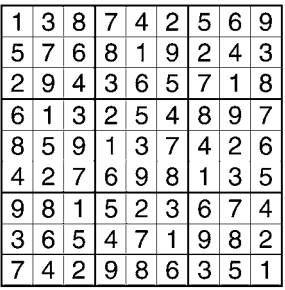
Difficulty Level ★★★

7/29

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★

7/28

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

VoIP TECHNOLOGY

Solution: 9 letters



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Apply, Audio, Broadband, Bypass, Bytes, Cable, Cellular, Codecs, Communications, Costs, Data, Internet, Kits, Long Distance, Messages, Modem, Network, Online, Path, Phone, Plans, Price, Processing, Program, Rate, Route, Send, Session, Setup, Signal, Speakers, Specifications, Streamline, Subscribe, Switch, Talk, Transfer, Transmit

Yesterday's Answer: Decryption

WONDERWORD offers the "Book of Celebrities," for \$5.95 each (US funds only) payable to Universal Press Syndicate plus \$3 postage for the first book order. \$1.00 for each additional book. Send to WONDERWORD, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64105 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. Order online at upuzzles.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution: Snap up a bargain

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Oceanview & Sunsetview Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

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Looking to lease house property for 55 years and used cars. We pay cash. Call 323-7676.

EMPLOYMENT

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235-NEWS

Green wins Canadian Open in playoff

OAKVILLE, Ontario (AP)—Nathan Green looked up and flashed a wry smile when the latest round of heavy rain hit the Canadian Open.

But instead of wiping out play again and possibly forcing yet another day at drenched Glen Abbey, the pounding drops were nothing more than a fitting finishing touch on his breakthrough playoff victory over Retief Goosen.

"It's just been a bizarre week. A long week," Green said.

An hour earlier Monday in good conditions on the course soaked by nearly 5 inches of rain the first four days, the Australian parred the second extra hole for his first victory in 112 career PGA Tour starts.

"It's a huge surprise to finally win," said Green, the 34-year-old former Canadian Tour player from Toronto—Toronto, Australia, that is. "This is where I started my pro career. I love coming up here. The people are great."

After missing a 12-foot birdie attempt on the par-4 17th on the second extra hole, Green won when Goosen's 8-foot par try slid right.

"I'm not too disappointed," Goosen said. "I had my chance."

In sunny conditions, Green completed a third-round 69 with an eagle on the par-5 18th and shot a 68 in the

fourth to match Goosen at 18 under. Goosen three-putted the 18th for par in his morning 67, then eagled the closing hole in the afternoon for a 69.

Goosen had a putt to win on 18 on the first extra hole, but missed a 6-footer after leaving his bunker shot above the hole. Green saved par after his second shot bounced off a cart path, landing near the scoring trailer above the green.

"I dodged a bullet," said Green, who also saved par on the 18th to force the playoff after hitting over the green and into the crowd.

Goosen had his fourth straight top-six finish worldwide. After tying for 16th in the U.S. Open, the 40-year-old South African was third in the BMW International in Germany, tied for sixth in the Scottish Open and tied for fifth in the British Open.

"I'm very happy with the way I'm playing," said Goosen, the Transitions Championship winner in March. "I've had chances to win in the last four tournaments I've played in. I've just got to keep going and hopefully it's going to come my way."

Anthony Kim (66-73) and Jason Dufner (70-73) tied for third at 14 under, a stroke ahead of Lee Janzen (70-67), Brandt Snedeker (67-68) and Jerry Kelly (72-71).



Stephen Ames (72-67) and Chris Baryla (70-66) were the top Canadian finishers, tying for eighth at 12 under. Mike Weir (69-71) tied for 24th at 10 under.

"It's a relief to get it over with. Finally," Ames said.

Green won for the second time in Canada, following a 2000 victory in a Canadian Tour event in Sudbury. He also won the Queensland PGA in Australia in 2000 and took the European tour's 2006 New Zealand Open.

The playoff also was the second of his PGA Tour career. In the 2006 Buick Invitational, he was eliminated on the first extra hole, and Tiger Woods went on to beat Jose Maria Olazabal on the second hole.

"I was definitely a bit calmer today than I was then," Green said.

Green earned \$918,000 to jump from 132nd to 43rd on the money list with \$1,282,017, and also received a tour exemption through 2011.

"That's huge for me," Green said. "It's just such a buzz for me to be able to turn the year around so dramatically. That's more than I thought I could have done."

Nathan Green, of Australia, holds the trophy after winning the Canadian Open golf championship in Oakville, Ontario, on Monday July 27, 2009.

AP

Vick could play in October after being reinstated



NEW YORK (AP)—Michael Vick is back in the NFL. Now all he needs is a team to play for. Vick, free after serving 18 months in prison for running a dogfighting ring, was reinstated with conditions by NFL commissioner Roger Goodell on Monday. He could participate in regular-season games as early as October.

Vick can immediately take part in preseason practices, workouts and meetings and can play in the final two preseason games—if he can find a team that will sign him. A number of teams have already said they would not.

Once the season begins, Vick may participate in all team activities except games, and Goodell said he would consider Vick for full reinstatement by Week 6 (Oct. 18-19) at the latest.

Goodell suspended Vick indefinitely in August 2007 after the former Atlanta Falcons quarterback admitted bankrolling a dogfighting operation on his property in Virginia. At the time, Goodell said Vick must show remorse before he would consider reinstating him.

"I accept that you are sincere when you say that you want to, and will, turn your life around, and that you intend to be a positive role model for others," Goodell said in his letter to Vick. "I am prepared to offer you that opportunity. Whether you succeed is entirely in your hands."

"Needless to say, your margin for error is extremely limited," the letter said. "I urge you to take full advantage of the resources available to support you and to dedicate yourself to rebuilding your life and your career. If you do this, the NFL will support you."

Goodell said he spoke to numerous

Report: DA wants jail time for Plaxico Burress

NEW YORK (AP)—Manhattan's district attorney says he wants former Giants wide receiver Plaxico Burress to serve time in prison, the New York Post reported. Robert Morgenthau told the newspaper that Burress, who shot himself with an unlicensed gun in November, was willing to agree to spend a year in jail, but prosecutors insisted on two.

"We've always taken the position that he's going to have to go to jail, whether by trial or by plea," Morgenthau told the Post for a story in Monday's edition.

A spokeswoman for Morgenthau, Alica Maxey Greene, declined to comment on the Post story or to confirm that the district attorney

made the comments.

Burress shot himself in the thigh at a nightclub early on the morning of Nov. 29. He was charged with criminal possession of a weapon and faces up to 3 1/2 years in prison. Burress has pleaded not guilty and is free on \$100,000 bail. The Giants released Burress in April.

His attorney, Benjamin Brafman, said he was "disappointed and surprised" that Morgenthau spoke publicly while a grand jury decision on indicting Burress is pending.

"My concern is that the comments by the district attorney's office may have irreparably prejudiced those proceedings," Brafman said Monday. "I am now considering the le-

gal options available to respond."

Brafman had previously said he no longer thought the matter would be resolved through a plea agreement and that prosecutors would take the case to a grand jury. He also said Burress would plead not guilty if the case went to trial.

Burress, who caught the winning touchdown in the final minute for the Giants in the 2008 Super Bowl, also could face disciplinary action by NFL commissioner Roger Goodell under the league's personal conduct policy. Burress has yet to sign with another team and Goodell's office announced in June that the league already had started its examination of the incident.

current and former players and coaches as he weighed his decision and that the responses were "very mixed."

"I do recognize that some will never forgive him for what he did," Goodell said. "I hope that the public will have a chance to understand his position as I have."

Vick, once the highest-paid player in the league, said he was grateful for a second chance.

"I would like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to commissioner Goodell for allowing me to be readmitted to the National Football League," Vick said in a statement released by his agent, Joel Segal. "I fully understand that playing football in the NFL is a privilege, not a right, and I am truly thankful for the opportunity I have been given."

"As you can imagine, the last two

years have given me time to re-evaluate my life, mature as an individual and fully understand the terrible mistakes I have made in the past and what type of life I must lead moving forward," he said.

The announcement came after a busy first week of freedom for Vick, who met with union leaders and Goodell on consecutive days last week. His 23-month federal sentence ended when an electronic monitor was removed from his ankle on July 20 at his home in Hampton, Va.

He met with DeMaurice Smith, executive director of the NFL Players Association, last Tuesday and, on Wednesday, with Goodell at a security firm in Allendale, N.J.

Goodell said Vick agreed to undergo psychiatric testing, which determined that he was capable of return-

ing to the NFL but needed continuing counseling.

He said keeping Vick from playing at the start of the regular season wasn't a form of punishment, but a chance for the quarterback to gradually transition back into the league.

"I have thought about every alternative, but I think this gives him the best chance for success," Goodell said. "We are not looking for failure here. We are looking to see a young man succeed."

But Vick's issues are far from over and he needs a team to call his own. So far, the owners of the New York Giants, Jets and Dallas Cowboys have said they had no interest in the 29-year-old quarterback. Neither do the Falcons, who officially released Vick in June.

Vick filed for bankruptcy protection last July, listing assets of about \$16 million and debts of more than

\$20 million, and has a hearing about his plan to repay his creditors on Friday in Newport News, Va. That plan is built around his ability to make NFL-type money again.

He's unlikely to command anything close to the 10-year, \$130 million contract he once had with the Falcons, or to get endorsement deals after the grisly details of the dogfighting ring were publicized.

Vick pleaded guilty after his three co-defendants had already done so. They told of how Vick participated in the killing of dogs that didn't perform well in test fights by shooting, hanging, drowning or slamming them to the ground.

Vick's appearances at federal court in Richmond, Va., prompted large groups of protesters to gather outside. Many were with PETA and held signs depicting photographs of pit bulls ravaged in dogfights.

Still, there were supporters who wore his No. 7 jersey.

Vick has already taken steps to rebuild his image.

He met with the president of the Humane Society of the United States while serving his federal sentence at Leavenworth, Kan. He plans to work with HSUS in a program designed to steer inner city youth away from dogfighting. He was not permitted to work with the program while in custody.

Ed Sayres, president of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, said the organization hopes Vick "rises to the occasion and proves worthy of the rare second chance Commissioner Goodell has granted him."

"Opportunities for redemption are rare—but that is exactly the opportunity that awaits Mr. Vick," he said.

Beckett's pitching, Sox 14 hits spark 8-3 win



BOSTON (AP)— Josh Beckett became the American League's first 12-game winner when the Boston Red Sox snapped out of a slump with 14 hits in an 8-3 win over the Oakland Athletics on Monday.

Beckett (12-4) struck out 10 and allowed one walk and eight hits in seven innings before the bullpen extended its streak to 24 scoreless innings since the All-Star game.

Dustin Pedroia homered and drove in two runs and Jacoby Ellsbury had three hits for the Red Sox, who entered with just 25 runs and a .215 batting average in their nine games since the break.

Yankees 11, Rays 4

At St. Petersburg, Florida, A.J. Burnett allowed two hits in seven innings and Nick Swisher homered twice to lead New York past Tampa Bay.

The AL East leaders improved to 10-1 since the All-Star break, with Burnett (10-4) getting his fifth straight win.

The switch-hitting Swisher homered from both sides of the plate for the second time this season. Robinson Cano and Johnny Damon also went deep, while Derek Jeter had three hits and Alex Rodriguez contributed a two-run double on his 34th birthday.

Twins 4, White Sox 3

At Minneapolis, Michael Cuddyer's two-run homer in the sixth inning gave Minnesota yet another win over Chicago at the Metrodome.

John Danks (8-7) allowed two earned runs and six hits over seven innings after missing his last start due to a finger blister, but that wasn't enough to keep the Sox from their 12th loss in the last 14 games at Minnesota's soon-to-be-vacated dome.

Royals 5, Orioles 3

At Baltimore, Billy Butler had a career-high five hits and drove in three runs, and Brayan Pena beat out a run-scoring infield single to snap a seventh-inning tie for Kansas City.

Butler led off the seventh with a double to right-center off Matt Albers (1-4), advanced when Miguel Olivo grounded out for the second out and scored when Pena beat Melvin Mora's throw on a slow chopper to the third-base side of the mound.

Five of Kansas City's 14 hits were infield singles.

Rangers 5, Tigers 2

At Arlington, Texas, rookie Tommy Hunter pitched a career-high seven innings, and Nelson Cruz and Michael Young homered as Texas finally beat AL Central-leading Detroit.

The Rangers had lost the first six meetings with the Tigers this season to drop to 3-14 against them over the last three years before Hunter (3-1) pitched Texas to its seventh victory in eight games.

Indians 8, Angels 6

Anaheim, California, Victor Martinez hit a three-run homer off All-Star closer Brian Fuentes in the ninth inning, helping the short-handed Cleveland rally for the win over the Angels.

Johnny Peralta had four hits and followed Martinez's shot with another homer off Fuentes (1-3), who leads the majors with 30 saves.



Boston Red Sox pitcher Josh Beckett delivers to Oakland Athletics designated hitter Jack Cust in the first inning of a baseball game at Fenway Park in Boston, Monday July 27, 2009.

Cleveland played without manager Eric Wedge and reliever Winston Abreu after both were suspended for Abreu's plunking of Seattle's Jack Hannahan last weekend. The Indians then traded first baseman Ryan Garko to San Francisco shortly before the game, and Grady Sizemore sat out while feeling ill.

Blue Jays 11, Mariners 4

At Seattle, Marco Scutaro matched his career high with four hits as Toronto took advantage of Felix Hernandez's worst start of the season to beat Seattle.

Lyle Overbay and Rod Barajas homered for the Blue Jays, who finished with 15 hits. Ricky Romero (9-4) pitched six innings for his sixth win in seven decisions.

Seattle, which has lost four straight, remained 7 1/2 games back of the AL West-leading Angels and fell 7 1/2 behind wild card-leading Boston.

Giants 4, Pirates 2

At San Francisco, Tim Lincecum looked like his old self, pitching a four-hitter and bouncing back from a rough outing with a career-high 15 strikeouts in the San Francisco Giants' victory over the Pittsburgh Pirates.

The reigning NL Cy Young pitching award (11-3) winner provided the Giants with a much-needed boost on the heels of a disappointing 3-7 road trip. The hard-throwing right-hander earned his fourth complete game this season and sixth of his career.

Reds 6, Padres 4

At Cincinnati, Brandon Phillips hit the first of Cincinnati's four home runs on Monday, a three-run shot that set up a victory over San Diego and helped end the Reds' longest losing streak of the season at six games.

The teams combined for seven homers, six of them solo shots.

Jonny Gomes and Edwin Encarnacion also had solo homers off Josh Geer

(1-7), a 26-year-old rookie who has yet to win a game on the road. Gomes added another solo shot off Edward Mujica, helping the Reds win a matchup of teams that have fallen apart in July.

Mets 7, Rockies 3

At New York, Fernando Tatis hit a pinch-hit grand slam in the eighth inning as New York salvaged an otherwise miserable day by rallying past Colorado.

It was the third straight win for the Mets, who have been struggling most of the season on the field and had to deal with issues off it when they fired vice president Tony Bernazard during an awkward news conference hours before the first pitch.

Cardinals 6, Dodgers 1

At St. Louis, Chris Carpenter wrapped up an undefeated month and Brendan Ryan matched a career high with four hits for St. Louis against Los Angeles.

Matt Holliday lined an RBI double off the base of the center-field wall in his first home at-bat and Mark DeRosa homered for the fifth time in 13 games with St. Louis. The third newcomer to the lineup, Julio Lugo, had an RBI infield hit in the second to help the Cardinals shake off a 2-5 trip that knocked them out of the NL Central lead.

Carpenter (9-3) worked around nine hits in seven-plus innings, allowing only Rafael

Nationals 14, Brewers 6

At Milwaukee, Josh Willingham hit two grand slams and tied a franchise record with eight RBIs to lead Washington past Milwaukee.

Willingham became the 13th player to hit two grand slams in a game and first since Boston's Bill Mueller hit one from each side of the plate on July 29, 2003, against Texas. Willingham's eight RBIs were the most in Nationals history and tied the franchise mark, accomplished last by Tim Wallach for

Montreal against San Diego in 1990.

Willingham hit his 15th homer off Jeff Suppan (5-8) with two out in the fifth. Then he connected again in the sixth off Mark DiFelice.

Cubs 5, Astros 1

At Chicago, Alfonso Soriano redeemed himself for an earlier mental miscue by hitting a game-ending grand slam in the 13th inning to lead Chicago past Houston.

Reliever Chris Sampson (4-2) gave up a leadoff walk on four pitches to Derrek Lee in the 13th, and Aramis Ramirez followed with a single to put runners on first and third. After an intentional walk to Milton Bradley loaded the bases, Soriano followed with a long homer—his fourth career slam—over the center-field wall to end it.

Phillies 6, Diamondbacks 2

At Phoenix, Jamie Moyer pitched 6 2-3 shutout innings and Ryan Howard hit a two-run homer as Philadelphia beat Arizona.

Jimmy Rollins, Raul Ibanez, Pedro Feliz and Paul Bako each drove in a run as the Phillies stretched their lead in the NL East to a season-high seven games over Atlanta and Florida, which were idle. The defending world champions improved to a majors-best 30-15 on the road.

AP source: Bobcats, Hornets closing in on trade



The Charlotte Bobcats are finalizing a trade that would send Emeka Okafor to the New Orleans Hornets for Tyson Chandler, two people familiar with the deal told The Associated Press on Monday.

The swap of 26-year-old centers wasn't expected to be completed until Tuesday and was unlikely to include other players, the people said on condition of anonymity because an official announcement has not been made.

The deal would be another roster shake up for the Bobcats since Larry Brown took over as coach last season, and is a gamble because Chandler has been plagued by a left toe injury and recently underwent surgery.

Okafor was the No. 2 overall pick—after Orlando took Dwight Howard—in the 2004 draft. Okafor was the first pick in franchise history and the Bobcats re-signed him to a six-year, \$72 million deal before last season.

The 6-foot-10 Okafor averaged 13.2 points and 10.1 rebounds for Charlotte last season. But Brown questioned his passion at the end of the season.

"I tease him that he's got an A in stretching and pilates and yoga. I want him to have an A in basketball," Brown said two days after Charlotte finished 35-47. "It makes older people feel great, but he's got to work on his game. ... There's no better guy than him, I just want him to have a passion to play the sport because it ends so quickly."

Chandler is taller, at 7-1, but averaged only 8.8 points and 8.3 rebounds in an unsettling season that saw him traded to Oklahoma City, then returned to New Orleans. The deal was rescinded because the Thunder had concerns about a left toe injury.

Chandler later had a left ankle injury that kept him out of the Hornets' final playoff game. He underwent surgery on his toe and ankle in May, but Hornets officials said he would be ready for training camp.

The Hornets don't figure to have injury concerns with Okafor, who has played all 82 games in each of the past two seasons. While he is a solid rebounder, he has struggled offensively and is a poor free-throw shooter.

While Okafor has a longer contract, the players make about the same each year, making it an easier deal to fit under the salary cap. Chandler is slated to make \$11.8 million in 2009-10, with a player's option worth \$12.7 million in 2010-11.

Okafor is scheduled to earn \$10.5 million next season, meaning the Hornets could lower 2009-2010 payroll by \$1.3 million. If the Hornets have to pay the league's dollar-for-dollar luxury tax next season, the savings effectively could be double.

As of Monday, with Chandler still on the books, the Hornets' payroll was about \$78 million, close to \$8 million above the NBA's luxury tax threshold of \$69.9 million for next season.

Still, a trade for Okafor would lock New Orleans into a longer financial commitment.

Chandler's shorter contract could help the Bobcats get long-term salary-cap relief and lower payroll for owner Bob Johnson, who is looking to sell the team after deep financial losses.

Once completed, it would mark the fourth major trade for the Bobcats since Brown took his NBA record ninth head coaching job. The team, which will begin its sixth season in the fall, is still looking for its first playoff berth.

Team Adjira rules first PIC dodgeball tourney

Team Adjira worked its way up from a lower half of the bracket to top the 2009 PIC Charity Dodgeball Tournament held last Saturday at the Pacific Islands Club's tennis court.

Adjira was seeded 12th in the playoffs and stunned the fourth-ranked Dick's Dodgy Team Dodgers in the finals to earn the bragging rights in the weekend event.

PIC Japanese sales manager Masa Otsuka captained the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

champion team. Other members of Team Adjira were Ikejiri Tsuyoshi, Narita Kazuhiro, Adachi Yukio, Yoneda Junji, Watanabe Mamoru, Kitami Yoshihiro, Somei Junichi, and Sakai Hideki.

A dodgeball trophy was given to Team Adjira for winning the tournament that aimed to raise funds for the Marianas March Against Cancer. The champion team also went home with a few cases of Miller Lite, PIC

water park passes for two, and a free entry into the next dodgeball tournament.

Dick's Dodgy Dodgers settled for the runner-up prize, which was a case of Miller High Life. The team was composed of Russ and Kanae Quinn, Yosh and Nikki Gabaldon, Richard and Sarah Brostrom, Glenn and Stephanie Jewel, Jacque Van Dam, and Rebekah Yost.

Sixteen teams competed in the tournament with squads divided into four groups. A round-robin format was implemented in the preliminary round to determine the rankings of each team. All participating teams advanced to the playoffs, which had a single-

Team Adjira in action against Dick's Dodgy Dodgers in the finals of the 2009 PIC Charity Dodgeball Tournament held last weekend at the Pacific Islands Club's tennis court.

HEO

From Page 28

donia early June for the tournament, advanced to the finals of a singles competition in Noumea after winning two games. He downed Jeane-Jacques Harrison in his first game, 7-5, 6-3, and gained a finals seat after beating Aymeric Mara, 6-7, 6-0, 6-3.

However, Heo settled for the "Silver Cup" in the singles after losing to Guime Monot in the finals, 6-4, 6-1.

"Monot was way too good in the synthetic grass courts. It is his club so he practices there all the time. I had no idea how to slide properly on the court. I kept sliding with both legs and could not get to the other side by the time he hit it there," said Heo, who plays for a French Club Paita in Noumea.

On the day Heo dueled Monot, he played four straight matches and ran out of steam for the title game.

"It was difficult for me. I was also very tired because the previ-

ous day, I played four matches. I came late to New Caledonia, so they postponed my matches and I had to play everything in one day. My back was sore from serving and of course my legs were cramping," said Heo, who came from Darwin, Australia before returning to Noumea.

Despite the fatigue, Heo said he was in good shape in the first set.

"I was serving okay in the first set, but Monot was way too good for me on grass. I really couldn't do anything since

elimination format.

Coconut Dodgers captained by PIC restaurant manager Henry Worswick, failed to move into the semifinals, but went home with two awards, after claiming the best banner and

COOPER

From Page 28

timed in at 4:47.58 on Heat 2 of the 400m freestyle event, missing his personal best time (4:44.84) by about three seconds.

Kimura was faster than Graf in the first 50m, as the former timed in at 30.62 seconds. He was still ahead of Graf in the halfway mark of the race, after clocking in at 34.03 seconds in the next 50m. However, Graf caught up with him in the last 100m, as Kimura logged 34.36 and 34.01 in the last two 50m split, respectively.

Graf and Kimura's personal best times were still behind the age group and CNMI records

best costume plums.

Over 160 participated in the weekend event, which raised more than \$1,200 for the Marianas March Against Cancer.

Lindsey Sosovec, one of the organizers of the event, would

in the 200m. Jonathan Sakovich holds the 17 to 18 age group mark after timing in at 1:56.08 on December 10, 1978 and also set the CNMI mark in the same event at 1:50.90 made on July 25, 1993.

The two CNMI swimmers were on Heat 2 of the preliminary race in the 200m. Cayman Island's Fraser Shaune won the heat with his time of 1:46.89.

Beijing Olympics seven-time gold medalist Michael Phelps competed in the 200m race and was on Heat 15. He won his heat after submitting 1:45.60 and beating Russia's Jean Basson (1:45.88).

However, Phelps' time was only the second best in that race, as Germany's sensation

like to thank the following for supporting the tournament: Miller Lite, Monster, Skyy Vodka, IT&E, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Bob Coldeen, and Lannie Walker. **(Roselyn B. Monroyo)**

Paul Biedermann was .30 of a second faster than the American swimmer. Biedermann timed in at 1:45.30.

The Olympic veteran Phelps also failed to eclipse the World Championships and world records in the 200m, which he himself set. Phelps clocked in at 1:42.96 in Beijing last year, setting a new world record, while his World Championship mark stands at 1:43.86, which was recorded in Melbourne, Australia in 2007.

Meanwhile, Rezne Wong and Kai Staal, who were off in Day 2, will return to the pool today, as they compete in the 50m breaststroke. Kimura and Graf are also seeing action in Day 3, as they join the 800m freestyle event.

BAYANI

From Page 28

off the win when it moved within three, 107-104, going into the last one two minutes of the game. However, back-to-back missed layups by Emir Abuan and Robert Guiang, coupled with the latter's two errors and Cabalen's muffed free throws in the closing minutes helped NMBA steal the game.

Guiang made his last error when he lost the ball on his way to the basket. He claimed he was fouled and continued to contest the non-call, prompting referee Lito Salas to charge him with a technical foul.

Amor Casabuena made two charities to increase the lead. NMBA kept the possession and with less than 20 seconds left in the game, Casabuena had a mental lapse when he dribbled toward the Cabalen court and

canned a left-handed layup. The shot was nullified and he was called for a backing violation. With 11 seconds left and NMBA ahead, 110-106, Guiang split his charities and Mina muffed an undergoal stab to peg the final score.

Cabalen finished the regular season at the No. 4 spot with its 3-3 slate, following a 16-point triumph over the winless MIFICPA.

While NMBA struggled a bit in its last game, Bayani had little problems securing the top ranking in the seven-team field, as they drew big contributions from the prolific duo of Jun Tabora and Ronald Delos Reyes.

Tabora top-scored for Bayani with 28 points, while Delos Reyes chipped in 22.

Three other Bayani players scored in double figures, making up for the absence of Ed Palma, who had already left the island and would no longer play

in the playoffs.

Edel Carino tallied 17, Bobby Vargas added 15, and Nestor Cantos drilled 14.

Tabora nicknamed "Smoking Gun" was blazing early, as he canned 12 points in the first quarter to give Bayani a 27-14 lead.

Bayani played no let up in the next three quarters and all that MIFICPA could do was watch its foe pad the lead.

Darwin Gonzales led MIFICPA's losing cause, hitting 18 markers. Hector Sevilla was the only other MIFICPA player to score in double digits with his 12 points.

Sunday's Game

Bayani 106 – Tabora 28, Delos Reyes 22, Carino 17, Vargas 15, Cantos 14, Domingo 8, Mateo 2.

MIFICPA 71 – Gonzales 18, Sevilla 12, Musca 8, Leong 7, Moscoso 6, Madridejos, Gener-

oso 6, Ancheta 4.

Scoring by quarters: 27-14, 45-28, 73-43, 106-71.

Monday's Games First Game

NMBA 110 – Rebuyon 35, Casabuena 19, Santos 14, Macoto 14, Tobias 13, Olivos 8, Abedes 2, Fer 2.

Cabalen 107 – Guiang 30, Mina 22, Fernandez 10, Abuan 10, Andales 10, Pacheco 8, Castro 4, Ramiez 4, Conti 2.

Scoring by quarters: 26-30, 49-55, 85-78, 110-107.

Second Game

Cabalen 95 – Conti 22, Pacheco 20, Mina 19, Andales 14, Guiang 14, Abuan 6, Valdez 2.

MIFICPA 79 – Gonzales 21, Hernandez 14, Leong 11, Ebuon 10, Madridejos 8, Dacumos 8, Sevilla 4, Ancheta 3.

Scoring by quarters: 23-21, 40-39, 73-52, 95-79.

SECOND

From Page 28

June 13 and 14.

The X-Terminators edged Kulan Zamu in a low-scoring finals that took a single from lefty Manny Sablan to end.

With neither team making it to the scoreboard, Sablan stepped up to the plate at the bottom of the last inning and hit a single to deep rightfield, bringing leadoff batter Jerry Ayuyu home for the

game-winning run.

Advance swept the elimination round of the first qualifier, beating Banzai, the Jets, and Kulan Zamu. Kulan Zamu had to down the Jets in the loser's bracket semis to challenge the X-Terminators for the first qualifying slot. Advance earned a twice-to-beat advantage in the finals and quickly wrapped up the duel with a win in Game 1.

After this weekend's qualifier, organizers will hold two more

tournaments. The third qualifier is scheduled for Sept. 26 and 27, while the fourth/consolation round is slated for Oct. 3 and 4.

The fourth/consolation round will determine the last qualifier for the "Tournament of Champions." Only teams that competed in at least two of the first three rounds are allowed to join the consolation round. The first three qualifiers will have an entrance fee of \$150 per team, while the fourth/consolation round is free.

The "Tournament of Champions" will be played on Oct. 17 and 18 with the winner advancing to the season-finale of 2009 Budweiser King and Queen of the Diamonds Softball Tournament.

The grand finals will be played on Saipan from Nov. 12 to 15 and will have the host battling qualifying teams from Guam, Palau, and Pohnpei.

For more information about KOD, contact Joey Dela Cruz at 483-4185.

made three unforced errors and our foes started to catch up and eventually took the lead, 10-9," said Heo.

At 10-9, Boris served and I hit

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES		
MLB STANDINGS		
AMERICAN LEAGUE		
East Division		
	W	L Pct GB
New York	61	38 .616 —
Boston	58	40 .592 2 1/2
Tampa Bay	54	46 .540 7 1/2
Toronto	49	51 .490 12 1/2
Baltimore	42	56 .429 18 1/2
Central Division		
Detroit	52	46 .531 —
Chicago	51	49 .510 2
Minnesota	50	50 .500 3
Cleveland	42	58 .420 11
Kansas City	39	59 .398 13
West Division		
Los Angeles	58	40 .592 —
Texas	55	42 .567 2 1/2
Seattle	51	48 .515 7 1/2
Oakland	41	57 .418 17
NATIONAL LEAGUE		
East Division		
Philadelphia	57	40 .588 —
Atlanta	51	48 .515 7
Florida	51	48 .515 7
New York	47	51 .480 10 1/2
Washington	31	68 .313 27
Central Division		
Chicago	52	45 .536 —
St. Louis	54	48 .529 1/2
Houston	50	49 .505 3
Milwaukee	49	50 .495 4
Cincinnati	45	53 .459 7 1/2
Pittsburgh	43	56 .434 10
West Division		
Los Angeles	62	37 .626 —
Colorado	54	45 .545 8
San Francisco	53	46 .535 9
Arizona	43	57 .430 19 1/2
San Diego	38	62 .380 24 1/2
Yesterday's Games		
St. Louis 6, L.A. Dodgers 1		
N.Y. Mets 7, Colorado 3		
Cincinnati 6, San Diego 4		
Chicago Cubs 5, Houston 1, 13 innings		
Philadelphia 6, Arizona 2		
San Francisco 4, Pittsburgh 2		
Kansas City 5, Baltimore 3		
N.Y. Yankees 11, Tampa Bay 4		
Boston 8, Oakland 3		
Texas 5, Detroit 2		
Minnesota 4, Chicago White Sox 3		
Cleveland 8, L.A. Angels 6		
Toronto 11, Seattle 4		
By The Associated Press		
CANADIAN OPEN SCORES		
OAKVILLE, Ontario (AP)—Final scores Monday at the Canadian Open, a \$5.1 million PGA Tour event at the 7,253-yard, par-72 Glen Abbey Golf Club (x-won on second playoff hole; FedExCup points in parentheses):		
FINAL ROUND		
x-Nathan Green (500), \$918,000	68-65-69-68-270	
LOCAL SCORES		
UFO MASTERS STANDINGS		
Bayani	5	1
NMBA	5	1
Boholanos	4	2
Cabalen	3	3
MAFEA	2	4
MDX	2	4
MIFICPA	0	6

2009 Shirley's Invitational Basketball League Playoffs

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



MBI's Don Sese goes for a layup against Advance's Julian Daprosa during Game 1 of their title series in the 2009 Inaugural Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League at the JP Center Basketball Court.



Alvin Alvarez challenges the defense of Advance's Julian Daprosa during Game 2 of their title series.



Fradel Sedillo drives against MBI's Art Trajano during the first round of the playoffs.



Fiesta's J.M. Ong goes for a running jumper against two Advance defenders during their semis game.



Shirley's Rogie Atienza tries to keep the ball away from MBI's Art Trajano.



Advance's Rodel Apostol, right, and MBI's Art Trajano battle for the loose ball.



Advance's Rocyl Ritual is sandwiched by MBI's Darwin Barbo, left, and Jeff Garcia.



Members and supporters of champion MBI pose for a group photo.



Advance X-Terminators pose with their runner-up trophy.



Green wins Canadian Open in playoff

Nathan Green looked up and flashed a wry smile when the latest round of heavy rain hit the Canadian Open.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Team Adjira rules first PIC dodgeball tourney

Team Adjira worked its way up from a lower half of the bracket to top the 2009 PIC Charity Dodgeball Tournament held last Saturday at the Pacific Islands Club's tennis court.

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28 WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 2009

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Cooper, Shin set personal best in 200m



Kimura



Graf

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Cooper Graf continues to have a strong showing in Rome, while Shin Kimura bounced back in Day 2 of the 13th FINA World Championships in Italy.

Graf swam in the 200m freestyle and

timed in at two minutes, 12.17 seconds, a new personal best time. He eclipsed his previous best time by more than two seconds, as his PBT read at 2:14.52

This was the second time that the 16-year-old CNMI swimmer broke his personal best mark. In Day 1 of the tournament, Graf competed in the 50m butterfly

race, was on Heat 3, and logged in at 30.11 seconds, passing his qualifying and PB times of 30.92 seconds.

Graf had his fastest time in the first 50 minutes of the race after clocking in at 31.19 seconds. He slowed down in the next 100m, submitting 34.20 and 34.10 seconds in the next two 50m, respectively, before

picking up the pace in the last 50m and timing in at 32.68.

The 16-year-old Kimura competed in the 200m freestyle race, too, and completed the event in 2:13.02, crushing his personal mark of 2:15.08.

It was Kimura's first PBT, as he faltered in his bid for a personal best time in Day 1 in the 400m freestyle race. He

See COOPER on Page 26

Second slot for KOD at stake this weekend, meeting tomorrow

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The second ticket to the Saipan leg of the 2009 Budweiser King and Queen of the Diamonds

Softball Tournament will be up for grabs this weekend when a qualifying tournament takes place at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

The second qualifier is set for Aug. 1 and 2 and only the first 12 teams to register will be allowed to play in the two-day tournament.

Interested teams are asked to attend a meeting tomorrow at 6pm at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The winner of the second qualifying event will join Advance X-Terminators in the Saipan leg- "Tournament of Champions" in October this year.

Advance X-Terminators booked the first slot to the "Tournament of Champions" after winning the first qualifying tournament on

See SECOND on Page 26

Heo gains French ranking points

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Ji Hoon Heo now has a French ranking after competing in a series of tournaments in New Caledonia.

The CNMI netter, in an email to *Saipan Tribune*, said his French ranking now is 15 after a runner-up finish in both the singles and doubles competitions of a tournament in Noumea last week.

"It's really difficult to explain the levels of ranking here, but my French ranking for now is 15, which is pretty decent. The ATP pros are in the -30," said Heo, who also holds a Junior ITF ranking after competing in various off-island tournaments this summer.

According to the French Tennis Federation, the lowest ranking starts at 30/5 to 0 and then to negative values. Players in the national level or those competing in ATP and ITF circuit usually have negative value rankings.

The French ranking differs from that of the U.S., which has its ranking starting from 1.5 to 7. Level 6 players in the U.S. are national players and correspond to Level 0 players in French Tennis Federation.

Heo, who was also in New Cale-

See HEO on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Ji Hoon Heo, seen here heading to the opposite court during a local tournament early this year, is in New Caledonia competing in French Tennis Federation-sanctioned tournaments.

Bayani secures pennant, NMBA gains second seed

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Bayani-Shirley's cruised to a pennant-clinching win over MIFICPA, 106-71, in the 7th United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Basketball League last Sunday at the JP Center Basketball Court in Garapan.

The win was fifth in six games for Bayani and it finished the regular season on top of the team standings, assuring the team the pennant and a bye in the first round of the playoffs.

The loss was fifth in as many games for MIFICPA and it absorbed its sixth defeat in as many games after bowing to Cabalen last Monday, 79-95.

Cabalen played its penultimate game in the regular season last Sunday, but its match over Northern Marianas Bartenders Association was suspended due to rain at halftime. Cabalen led NMBA-Ebisuya, 55-49.

When the game resumed Monday night, NMBA stole the win, 110-107, giving the team its third straight win and the No. 2 seeding in the playoffs. NMBA actually finished the regular season tied with Bayani, but the former dropped to the No. 2 spot as it lost to the latter in their only meeting this season.

Cabalen had several chances to pull

See BAYANI on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

NMBA-Ebisuya's Amor Casabuena goes for a fancy shot against Cabalen's Sam Fernandez during their rain-suspended game in the masters division of the UFO caging last Sunday at the JP Center Basketball Court.